United Nations S/2012/63

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 January 2012
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 25 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The League of Arab States dispatched its Observer Mission to Syria on the basis of a protocol that was signed by the parties on 19 December 2011. Having concluded its first month of work on 19 January 2012, the Observer Mission has prepared a final report in which it makes a number of observations and presents facts that are based on what the observers witnessed on the ground.

Syria has proven that it has complied fully and strictly with the protocol and the Arab plan of action for resolving the Syrian crisis. All armed elements have been withdrawn from the streets and 7,604 detainees not implicated in violent acts were released. From the beginning of December 2011 to 15 January 2012, the Syrian Government has granted authorizations to some 147 foreign and Arab media organizations. This is in addition to the 90 other accredited media organizations operating in Syria with full-time correspondents. The Government, moreover, has not resorted to any form of violence and has exercised maximum self-restraint, a policy which has, inter alia, enticed armed groups to commit further attacks against State institutions and kill more civilians and members of the security forces. All of this took place in full view of the Arab observers, who have themselves verified the events and reported on them faithfully and objectively.

The report of the Observer Mission has clearly revealed the truth of everything that we had brought to your attention that, first, a systematic media and political campaign built on disinformation is being waged with a view to distorting the facts on the ground and that, second, armed terrorist groups are exploiting the legitimate demands of the Syrian people for reform in order to undermine stability and security in Syria and carry out terrorist attacks against State institutions and against civilians and military personnel indiscriminately. It should be noted that the members of the Observer Mission saw all of this with their own eyes. They are genuine eyewitnesses to what is happening, unlike certain parties, which, unfortunately, are conducting a rabid disinformation campaign to defame the Syrian State in order to serve their dubious interventionist goals, which are contrary to the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations. The findings of the Observer Mission are based on information gathered and observations made on the ground, and refute all of the fabricated and misleading reports, issued by various sources, concerning events in Syria. Those reports have consistently sought to hold the Syrian authorities responsible for the violence, while completely ignoring the armed groups that

Please recycle

receive political, military, financial and media support from abroad. We are very disappointed that, from the very beginning of the painful events that have beset Syria, certain United Nations officials have accepted those reports without verifying their credibility; they have ignored several letters from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations that set out the truth of what is happening in Syria and draw attention to the danger of heeding such arbitrary reports of doubtful origin. We call on those persons to correct their positions, which are based on inaccurate information, in accordance with the facts on the ground, including the findings set out in the report of the Observer Mission. In that connection, you will find below several points, exactly as they appeared in the report of the Head of the Arab Observer Mission, that affirm and clarify the points we have raised. We furthermore hope that the officials concerned with the report will request its circulation as a document of the Security Council.

- Paragraph 26: In Homs and Dar'a, the Mission observed armed groups committing acts of violence against Government forces, resulting in death and injury among their ranks. In certain situations, Government forces responded to attacks against their personnel with force. The observers noted that some of the armed groups were using flares and armour-piercing projectiles.

- Paragraph 27: In Homs, Idlib and Hama, the Observer Mission witnessed acts of violence being committed against Government forces and civilians that resulted in several deaths and injuries. Examples of those acts include the bombing of a civilian bus, killing eight persons, and the bombing of a train carrying diesel oil. In another incident in Homs, a police bus was blown up, killing two police officers. A fuel pipeline and some small bridges were also bombed.

- Paragraph 28: The Mission noted that many parties falsely reported that explosions or violence had occurred in several locations. When the observers went to those locations, they found that those reports were unfounded.

- Paragraph 29: The Mission also noted that, according to its teams in the field, the media exaggerated the nature of the incidents and the number of persons killed in incidents and protests.

- Paragraph 30: Peaceful demonstrations by both Government supporters and the opposition took place in several places. None of those demonstrations were disrupted.

- Paragraph 33: The Mission received reports from parties outside Syria indicating that the number of detainees was 16,237. It also received information from the opposition inside the country that the number of detainees was 12,005. In validating those figures, the teams in the field discovered that there were discrepancies between the lists, that information was missing and inaccurate, and that names were repeated.

- Paragraph 37: The Mission determined that the total number of detainees that the Syrian Government said it had released was 7,604 persons.

- Paragraph 38: The Mission is attempting to verify that 5,152 detainees have been released. It is continuing its efforts in that regard with the Government.

- Paragraph 39: The Mission confirmed that all military vehicles, tanks and heavy weapons had been withdrawn from cities and residential

neighbourhoods. Although there is still some security measures in place in the form of earthen berms and barriers in front of important buildings, they do not affect citizens.

- Paragraph 44: The Mission reports that the French journalist who died in Homs had been killed by mortar shells fired by the opposition.
- Paragraph 49: Twenty-two observers declined to complete the mission for personal reasons. Some observers offered unfounded reasons, which were not accepted by the Head of the Mission, while others had a personal agenda.
- Paragraph 50: Some observers reneged on their duties and broke the oath they had taken. They made contact with officials from their countries and gave them exaggerated accounts of events. Those officials consequently developed a bleak and unfounded picture of the situation.
- Paragraph 68: Since it began its work, the Mission has been the target of a vicious media campaign. Some media outlets have published unfounded statements, which they attributed to the Head of the Mission. They have also grossly exaggerated events, thereby distorting the truth.
- Paragraph 69: Such contrived reports have helped to increase tensions among the Syrian people and undermined the observers' work.
- Paragraph 71: The Mission determined that there is an armed entity that is not mentioned in the protocol.
- Paragraph 73: The Mission noted that the Government strived to help it succeed in its task and remove any barriers that might stand in its way. The Government also facilitated meetings with all parties. No restrictions were placed on the movement of the Mission and its ability to interview Syrian citizens, both those who opposed the Government and those who supported it.
- Paragraph 74: The Mission determined that Syrian citizens believe the crisis should be resolved peacefully through Arab mediation alone, without international intervention. Doing so would allow them to live in peace and complete the reform process.
- Paragraph 75: Recently, there have been incidents that have had grave consequences and led to the loss of life and property. Such incidents include the bombing of buildings, trains carrying fuel, vehicles carrying diesel oil and explosions targeting the police, members of the media and fuel pipelines. Some of those attacks have been carried out by the Free Syrian Army and some by other armed opposition groups.
- Paragraph 82: Since its establishment, attitudes towards the Mission have been characterized by insincerity or, more broadly speaking, a lack of seriousness. Before it began carrying out its mandate and even before its members had arrived, the Mission was the target of a vicious campaign directed against the League of Arab States and the Head of the Mission, a campaign that increased in intensity after the observers' deployment.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate that Syria will continue with its policy of implementing legitimate popular demands for reform, regardless of any unilateral coercive sanctions, pressures and attempts to interfere in its internal affairs, and thereby undermine stability and security in our land. In the important

speech that he delivered on 10 January 2012, Mr. Bashar Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, emphasized the continuation of this policy, which is aimed at fostering the process of building a democratic nation, broadening political and economic participation, strengthening national unity, ensuring public order, national security and citizens' safety, preventing political chaos and achieving security, stability, and prosperity for the Syrian people, causing as little loss possible and achieving the greatest benefit.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council on an urgent basis.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations

United Nations A/66/670–S/2012/64

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 January 2012

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda items 34, 35 and 39

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Prevention of armed conflict

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 24 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the ongoing violations of the ceasefire by the military forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan recorded for the month of December 2011 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 35 and 39, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Garen **Nazarian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

12-21626 (E) 300112

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 24 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan from 1 to 31 December 2011

N	(Direction)	Date, time	Firing	
			From Azerbaijani side	
			Type of weapon	Ammunition
1.	Bardzruni	01.12.11 15.55	SVD	2
2.	Bardzruni	01.12.11 17.20	SVD	2
3.	Barekamavan	02.12.11 16.10	SVD	7
4.	Bardzruni	02.12.11 17.25	AK	1
5.	Bardzruni	02.12.11 17.35	PK	3
6.	Bardzruni	02.12.11 20.00	SVD	2
7.	Bardzruni	03.12.11 11.25	SVD	1
8.	Chinari	05.12.11 10.00	SVD	1
9.	Chinari	05.12.11 17.10	SVD	10
10.	Chinari	05.12.11 17.10	AK	17
11.	Chinari	05.12.11 17.10	SVD	10
12.	Chinari	05.12.11 17.10	SVD	10
13.	Chinari	05.12.11 21.55	SVD	10
14.	Chinari	05.12.11 21.55	SVD	10
15.	Chinari	05.12.11 22.15	SVD	7
16.	Barekamavan	05.12.11 12.15-12.30	SVD	15
17.	Berdavan	05.12.11 19.05	AK	60

18.	Barekamavan	05.12.11 19.15	SVD	25
19.	Barekamavan	05.12.11 19.15	AK	50
20.	Chinari	06.12.11 12.45	SVD	7
21.	Chinari	06.12.11 12.45	PK	11
22.	Chinari	06.12.11 13.40	SVD	8
23.	Chinari	06.12.11 15.00	SVD	3
24.	Chinari	06.12.11 17.20	SVD	3
25.	Chinari	06.12.11 17.20	AK	30
26.	Movses	06.12.11 15.45	AK	4
27.	Azatamut	06.12.11 09.20	PK	4
28.	Bakhanis	06.12.11 15.10	AK	1
29.	Chinari	07.12.11 17.00	AK	150
30.	Chinari	07.12.11 17.00	SVD	30
31.	Chinari	07.12.11 17.50	AK	15
32.	Chinari	07.12.11 17.50	SVD	7
33.	Chinari	07.12.11 20.15	SVD	3
34.	Movses	07.12.11 14.30	AK	4
35.	Bardzruni	08.12.11 06.30	PK	4
36.	Chinari	08.12.11 15.50	PK	8
37.	Barekamavan	08.12.11 18.25	AK	15
38.	Bardzruni	08.12.11 14.30	AK	2
39.	Chinari	10.12.11 19.00	SVD	8
40.	Bardzruni	10.12.11 14.50	SV 12.7mm	5

41.	Bardzruni	10.12.11 14.50	PK	20
42.	Bardzruni	10.12.11 15.20	SV 12.7mm	5
43.	Bardzruni	10.12.11 16.20	SV 12.7mm	5
44.	Bardzruni	10.12.11 16.20	PK	30
45.	Bardzruni	10.12.11 16.50	SV 12.7mm	5
46.	Bardzruni	10.12.11 16.50	PK	30
47.	Bardzruni	10.12.11 16.50	AK	20
48.	Bardzruni	10.12.11 16.50	AK	2
49.	Bardzruni	10.12.11 17.35	SV 12.7mm	7
50.	Bardzruni	10.12.11 17.35	PK	10
51.	Chinari	11.12.11 22.50	SVD	8
52.	Bardzruni	11.12.11 13.25	SVD	3
53.	Bardzruni	11.12.11 16.35	SVD	5
54.	Bardzruni	11.12.11 22.30	RPK	20
55.	Chinari	12.12.11 14.30-16.20	SVD	9
56.	Vazashen	12.12.11 09.45	AK	1
57.	Bardzruni	12.12.11 17.15	SV 12.7mm	2
58.	Bardzruni	12.12.11 17.15	RPK	9
59.	Bardzruni	12.12.11 23.15	SV 12.7mm	1
60.	Bardzruni	12.12.11 23.15	PK	10
61.	Bardzruni	12.12.11 23.15	SV 12.7mm	10
62.	Chinari	13.12.11 21.10	AK	50
63.	Paravaqar	13.12.11 14.30	SV 12.7mm	4

64.	Paravaqar	13.12.11 14.30	PK	100
65.	Paravaqar	13.12.11 14.30	AK	60
66.	Bardzruni	14.12.11 12.00	SVD	4
67.	Bardzruni	15.12.11 01.40	SVD	6
68.	Bardzruni	15.12.11 04.15	SVD	3
69.	Bardzruni	15.12.11 06.00	AK	10
70.	Bardzruni	15.12.11 06.00	SVD	5
71.	Vazashen	15.12.11 16.10-16.50	PK	8
72.	Vazashen	15.12.11 16.10-16.50	machine gun 12.7mm	10
73.	Vazashen	15.12.11 16.10-16.50	AK	2
74.	Vazashen	15.12.11 18.20	AK	37
75.	Vazashen	15.12.11 19.05	PK	30
76.	Eraskh	15.12.11 11.45	AK	3
77.	Bardzruni	15.12.11 15.00	SVD	4
78.	Bardzruni	15.12.11 17.20	SVD	2
79.	Bardzruni	15.12.11 22.15	SVD	7
80.	Bardzruni	15.12.11 23.05	RPK	10
81.	Chinari	16.12.11 20.00	AK	20
82.	Bakhanis	16.12.11 12.35	AK	1
83.	Aygehovit	16.12.11 21.30	AK	3
84.	Aygehovit	16.12.11 23.55	PK	25
85.	Bardzruni	16.12.11 14.40	SVD	4
86.	Bardzruni	16.12.11 14.50	SVD	4

87.	Bardzruni	16.12.11 16.20	PK	20
88.	Bardzruni	16.12.11 16.20	RPK	10
89.	Bardzruni	16.12.11 16.20	AK	3
90.	Bardzruni	16.12.11 22.30	SVD	6
91.	Bardzruni	17.12.11 08.50	AK	6
92	Eraskh	18.12.11 21.25	AK	1
93.	Aygepar	19.12.11 15.45	AK	3
94.	Aygepar	19.12.11 20.25	AK	6
95.	Chinari	20.12.11 19.15	AK	15
96.	N.Karmirakhbyur	20.12.11 17.10	AK	5
97.	Aygepar	20.12.11 21.30	AK	40
98.	Aygepar	20.12.11 21.45	AK	8
99.	N.Karmirakhbyur	20.12.11 22.00	AK	5
100.	Bardzruni	20.12.11 13.35	SVD	2
101.	Voskepar	21.12.11 12.00	PK	8
102.	Berqaber	23.12.11 14.10	AK	4
103.	Vazashen	24.12.11 18.55	AK	5
104.	Sevqar	24.12.11 19.00	AK	2
105.	Tigranashen	24.12.11 22.35	AK	2
106.	Bardzruni	24.12.11 15.10	AK	10
107.	Bardzruni	24.12.11 15.10	PK	10
108.	Aygepar	25.12.11 10.40	AK	4
109.	Aygepar	25.12.11 16.20	AK	2

110.	Vazashen	26.12.11 01.15	AK	4
111.	Khndzorut	25.12.11 21.45	SVD	1
112.	Agarak	25.12.11 13.10	AK	3
113.	Eraskh	26.12.11 18.25	AK	2
114.	Vazashen	27.12.11 15.40	machine gun 12.7mm	15
115.	Vazashen	27.12.11 15.40	machine gun 12.7mm	40
116.	Vazashen	27.12.11 16.35	machine gun 12.7mm	23
117.	Vazashen	27.12.11 20.00	AK	4
118.	Vazashen	27.12.11 20.00	PK	7
119.	Vazashen	27.12.11 20.00	AK	12
120.	Vazashen	27.12.11 20.20	AK	15
121.	Vazashen	27.12.11 20.20	PK	10
122.	Agarak	28.12.11 20.00	AK	15
123.	Berdavan	29.12.11 18.50	AK	30
124.	Eraskh	31.12.11 00.10	AK	1

The violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the borderline of Armenia from 1 to 31 December 2011:
Number of violations — 124
Shots — about 1,548
PK ~ (318), RPK ~ (49), SVD — (254), sniper weapon 12.7mm — (44), machine gun 12.7mm ~ (88), AK ~ (795).

The violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the borderline of Nagorno Karabakh from 1 to 31 December 2011:
Number of violations — 950
Shots — about 3,810
PK ~ (273), SVD — (476), machine gun 12.7mm ~ (25), sniper weapon 12.7mm — (74), sniper weapon Istigal — (13), NSVT — 12.7mm ~ (20), RPK — (1), AK ~ (2,802).

United Nations S/2012/65

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 January 2012

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1991 (2011). By paragraph 23 of that resolution, the Council requested that I report in January on the progress on the ground, including on significant events of the electoral process and the support of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to this process, as well as on progress towards achieving a coordinated United Nations approach in-country. The present report covers developments that occurred between the issuance of my report of 24 October 2011 (S/2011/656) and 9 January.

II. Major developments

National political developments

2. National political developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo centred on the organization, the conduct and the results of the presidential and legislative elections held on 28 November 2011. Alongside the 11 candidates registered for the presidential elections, the Independent National Electoral Commission registered 18,864 candidates, including 2,277 women, for the 500 seats in the National Assembly.

3. On 26 and 27 October, the Independent National Electoral Commission, with the support of MONUSCO, held a colloquium with the presidential candidates or their designated representatives aimed at fostering dialogue between them and with the Commission and other political leaders. The colloquium resulted in the signing of a declaration by President Joseph Kabila and several other presidential candidates renouncing all forms of violence, intimidation and statements based on ethnicity, religion or race; and undertaking to use legally established mechanisms to settle any election disputes that might arise. Several candidates, including Vital Kamerhe (Union pour la nation congolaise), Léon Kengo wa Dondo (Union des forces du changement (UFC)), and Etienne Tshisekedi (Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS)), withheld their signature owing to concerns regarding the voter registration process, the preparations for the elections and their timing. The

Please recycle

declaration aimed to bolster the Code of Conduct for political parties, which at the time of polling had been signed by all presidential candidates except Mr. Tshisekedi.

4. The election campaign was conducted from 28 October to 26 November 2011. The campaign period was marked by mounting tension as the leading presidential candidates campaigned extensively across the country. On 6 November 2011, in an interview in South Africa with a Congolese television station, Mr. Tshisekedi stated that he had already been chosen by the majority of the Congolese people as President. On 9 November, President Kabila issued a presidential decree appointing 18 new judges to the Supreme Court of Justice responsible for adjudicating election disputes, thereby increasing its membership from 8 to 26.

5. There were reports of a number of election-related incidents resulting in deaths, injuries and the destruction of property primarily involving supporters of the opposition party UDPS and Union nationale des fédéralistes du Congo/Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et le développement, supporters aligned with the presidential majority, in the provinces of Kinshasa, Kasai Oriental and Occidental and Katanga. Other incidents included the burning of polling stations, assault upon electoral workers and the destruction of electoral materials. On 26 November in Kinshasa, clashes between UDPS and presidential coalition supporters, and between UDPS and the national security forces, during which several fatalities were reported and several other people were injured, led to the banning by city authorities of all final election campaign rallies that were scheduled to take place that day. On 28 November, in Lubumbashi, six people were reportedly killed in two separate armed attacks aimed at disrupting the distribution of electoral material.

6. On 18 November, the Independent National Electoral Commission inaugurated the National Mediation Committee, which is tasked with facilitating political dialogue among Congolese stakeholders and promoting the peaceful resolution of electoral disputes. The Committee, which comprises seven Congolese individuals, engaged with the presidential candidates in efforts to diffuse tensions arising from electoral disputes.

7. The Independent National Electoral Commission faced significant logistical challenges delivering electoral material to about 17,000 polling centres and 64,000 polling stations. In addition to the air assets provided by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and additional support from MONUSCO (see paras. 39-41), the Government of South Africa provided six helicopters, the Government of Angola six helicopters and two airplanes and the Government of the Republic of Congo two helicopters to support the delivery of electoral material.

8. Despite considerable logistical challenges, polling for the presidential and legislative elections began as scheduled on 28 November 2011 and continued, in some places, until 2 December 2011. The major logistical challenges included a reported shortage of presidential ballot papers resulting in the delivery of an additional 1.5 million ballot papers in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi from South Africa on 29 November 2011. There was also some confusion regarding the voters' register and the location of several polling stations.

9. On 9 December, the Independent National Electoral Commission announced the provisional results of the presidential elections, according to which President Kabila obtained 8,880,944 votes (48.95 per cent), followed by Mr. Tshisekedi with 5,864,775 votes (32.33 per cent) and Mr. Kamerhe with 1,403,372 votes (7.74 per

cent). According to the Commission, nearly 19 million, about 59 per cent, of the 32 million registered voters cast their votes.

10. On 12 December, the Independent National Electoral Commission transmitted the provisional results of the presidential polls to the Supreme Court of Justice for validation. On the same day, Mr. Kamerhe filed the only petition received by the Supreme Court of Justice calling for the nullification of the provisional results announced by the Commission due to alleged irregularities in the process. On 16 December, the Court dismissed Mr. Kamerhe's petition, validated without change the provisional results announced by the Commission and declared Mr. Kabila the winner of the presidential election.

11. A number of opposition candidates expressed concern about the electoral process and rejected the results. On 29 November 2011, Mr. Kengo wa Dondo and two other presidential candidates issued a joint statement proposing the annulment of the presidential and legislative elections and the establishment of a "realistic calendar for the organization of a new round of elections conducted by a transitional government". On 9 December, Mr. Tshisekedi described the provisional results announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission as "a provocation", proclaimed himself president-elect and called for the "intervention of the international community". In another statement on 17 December 2011, while reiterating his call for calm, Mr. Tshisekedi indicated that he would take the oath for the office of the President on 23 December 2011 in the main stadium in Kinshasa. On 12 December 2011, during a press conference, President Kabila acknowledged that mistakes had been made in the conduct of the elections, but argued that they were not of a nature to put the results announced by the Commission in question.

12. The presidential and legislative elections were observed by several intergovernmental organizations, including a number of African organizations, namely the African Union, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); the International Organization internationale of the Francophonie; the European Union Observer Mission; and the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa. Also present were observers from international non-governmental organizations, notably the Carter Center, the National Democratic Institute, the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa, and Agir pour des élections libres et transparentes, and the European Network for Central Africa. The Government of Switzerland financed the deployment of 48,200 national observers, while another 6,340 were trained and deployed by the Carter Center and 8,000 by the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa. According to the Independent National Electoral Commission, there were 785 international and over 100,000 accredited national observers for the presidential and legislative polls. Political party representatives and witnesses were also accredited by the Commission to monitor polling and vote counting operations.

13. On 30 November 2011, the African Union, SADC, ECCAS, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and COMESA issued a joint statement welcoming the successful and largely satisfactory conduct of the elections, despite technical and logistical challenges, and expressing regret at isolated acts of violence that had accompanied the elections. In a statement issued on 10 December 2011, the Carter Center declared that the process lacked credibility because of several instances

of mismanagement of the process, but indicated that these did not necessarily affect the ranking of the presidential candidates in the polls. On 13 December 2011, the European Union Observer Mission issued a statement highlighting the lack of transparency and irregularities in the collection, the compilation and the publication of the results. The European Union Observer Mission noted that up to 1.6 million votes in the presidential polls had not been counted and that safeguards to ensure an adequate results compilation process, notably the public posting of the results outside each polling station, had not been respected in some areas.

14. A number of statements were also issued by Congolese civil society and religious organizations, including the National Episcopal Conference of Congo, which deployed the largest observer mission, of about 30,000 observers, in the country. Most of them criticized the mismanagement and lack of transparency in the conduct of the elections, deplored elections-related violence and called on the Independent National Electoral Commission and the judicial authorities to take the necessary measures to correct the situation.

15. The reactions of the international partners of the Democratic Republic of the Congo were mixed. Some countries, including Belgium, France, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, issued official statements expressing serious concern about the irregularities observed in the electoral process, while noting that these may not have changed the outcome of the elections. A number of partners emphasized the importance of enhancing the transparency of the vote counting process for the legislative polls, as well as the upcoming provincial and local elections. Other Governments, including the Government of South Africa, welcomed the successful conclusion of the electoral process, while taking note of the significant logistical challenges involved. At a summit meeting of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on 14 and 15 December 2011 in Kampala, a statement jointly issued by Burundi, the Central African Republic, Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia called on all Congolese parties to accept the results and to focus on the next phase of reconstruction.

16. On 20 December, Mr. Kabila was sworn in as the President of the Republic by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for a second five-year term. The ceremony was attended, notably, by President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, ministers from a number of countries in the region, accredited ambassadors in Kinshasa, my Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and my Deputy Special Representative and Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

17. On 21 December 2011, the Independent National Electoral Commission suspended the compilation of results for the legislative elections because of reported irregularities. The vote counting and announcement of preliminary results was resumed by the Independent National Electoral Commission on 28 December 2011. On 4 January, a team of international technical experts arrived in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support the process. On 12 January, the Commission announced that it would postpone by a few days the publication of the provisional results of the legislative elections, which was originally scheduled for 13 January.

18. The post-electoral security situation was characterized by a heightened presence of national security forces in Kinshasa and other cities, sporadic outbreaks of violence and human rights violations (see paras. 46-47). On 23 December, Mr. Tshisekedi

organized a swearing in ceremony for himself as President at his residence in Kinshasa. National police elements used tear gas in some parts of the city to disperse crowds gathered in support of Mr. Tshisekedi, among which they reportedly conducted several arrests. At least one person was reportedly killed and another wounded. MONUSCO is investigating reports of human rights violations, including executions and arbitrary arrests by national security elements, in connection with the presidential and legislative elections.

North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Katanga provinces

19. The Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) regimentation process in the provinces of North and South Kivu was completed during the reporting period. FARDC units were redeployed to fill security gaps and resume military operations. MONUSCO conducted 10 military operations, including three jointly with FARDC, to deter armed group activities and enhance the protection of civilians, notably in the Kivus.

20. In North Kivu, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) and the Ugandan Allied Democratic Front (ADF) remained active. However, FDLR continued to be weakened under military and judicial pressure and efforts to encourage its combatants to surrender. On 18 November 2011, a senior FDLR commander, "Colonel" Amani, along with three other FDLR elements, surrendered to FARDC in Rutshuru territory. On 21 November 2011, "Lieutenant-Colonel" Sadiki was allegedly killed by Mayi-Mayi Cheka elements in Walikale territory. He had reportedly been involved in mass rapes and other human rights violations committed by a coalition of armed groups, including Mayi-Mayi Cheka, along the Kibua-Mpofi axis in Walikale territory in July and August 2010. Fifty Mayi-Mayi Cheka elements surrendered to FARDC shortly after the death of Sadiki. Reports indicate that, between 3 and 9 December 2011, two other senior FDLR commanders were killed in combat.

21. On 16 December 2011, the pretrial chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) declined to confirm charges against the Executive Secretary of FDLR, Callixte Mbarushimana, for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Kivus in 2009, and ordered his release. An appeal by the ICC Prosecutor on 19 and 20 December 2011 for the suspension of the release order was rejected. Mr. Mbarushimana was released on 23 December 2011 and is currently under investigation in France regarding his alleged involvement in crimes committed during the genocide in Rwanda in 1994.

22. A number of command positions created as part of the FARDC regimentation process were given to former commanders of the Congrès national pour la défense du peuple (CNDP). Nevertheless, a number of CNDP elements continued to maintain parallel command and control structures within FARDC and to resist orders to redeploy outside their current areas of operation. Although ADF suffered several losses as FARDC intensified unilateral operations against the group in Beni and Lubero territories, it continued to confront FARDC as it withdrew into the Ruwenzori Mountains and to expand its activities into Ituri district in Orientale province.

23. In South Kivu, new ethnic tensions emerged between the Babembe and Banyamulenge communities in the Hauts Plateaux territories of Fizi district. The situation remained fragile in some parts of Shabunda, northern Kalehe, the Moyens and Hauts Plateaux territories and some areas along the shores of Lake Tanganyika.

In November, FARDC military operations against Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba, which has forged a loose alliance with the Burundian Forces nationales de libération (FNL), forced the Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba to vacate the Ubwari Peninsula and some parts of the shores of Lake Tanganyika, while continuing to commit acts of piracy and other attacks in the area. There were reports of attempts by Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba to forge new alliances with other Mayi-Mayi groups. The integration of the Forces républicaines fédéralistes (FRF) into FARDC remained incomplete and some FRF elements continued to carry out militia activities.

24. Between 1 and 4 January, an estimated 45 people were killed by suspected FDLR combatants and approximately 2,700 persons were internally displaced during attacks on several remote villages in Shabunda territory, South Kivu. On 5 January MONUSCO conducted a reconnaissance mission to the area, and on 6 January the Mission established a mobile base at Lubimbe and dispatched patrols to other affected areas. In coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross, MONUSCO also evacuated a number of severely injured civilians. FARDC also deployed units to the area. MONUSCO planned to deploy a multidisciplinary mission to Shabunda to assess protection needs, in coordination with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and to dispatch an investigation team to the area as soon as the security conditions on the ground permit.

25. In Maniema, clashes were reported between FDLR and FARDC in Kabambare territory. In Katanga, the security situation remained tense owing to the presence of FDLR elements in Kisenge, the arrival in Kapanga of significant numbers of Congolese nationals expelled from Angola and the presence of former Mayi-Mayi combatants in Malemba-Nkulu, Mitwaba and Bukama. The election campaign heightened ethnic tensions between Katangans and Kasaians in the Lubumbashi area.

Orientale province

26. Information provided by surrendered LRA dependents during the reporting period suggested that LRA may be increasingly dispersed across the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan subregion, and that the group may be weakening. Reported instances of LRA atrocities against civilians in Haut Uélé and Bas Uélé in Orientale province also decreased between October and early December 2011, even as the group retained a capacity to mount attacks. FARDC conducted a number of unilateral operations aimed at containing LRA activities around the Garamba National Park. MONUSCO also launched one unilateral and three joint operations against LRA. One of these, "Operation Santa Claus", launched on 18 December 2011, aimed at protecting civilians over the Christmas period, when LRA has in the past conducted particularly brutal attacks against civilians. As part of the operation, MONUSCO established 13 mobile operating bases in Haut Uélé and Bas Uélé and intensified patrolling.

27. In October 2011, the Government of the United States announced the deployment of 100 military advisers to the LRA-affected areas in the subregion to strengthen the efforts of national armed forces in their operations against LRA. On 22 November 2011, the African Union Peace and Security Council authorized a regional cooperation initiative against LRA for an initial period of six months. On 23 November 2011, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission appointed

Francisco Madeira of Mozambique as his Special Envoy on LRA. Between 3 and 7 January, the African Union Special Envoy and my Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), Abou Moussa, visited the affected countries for consultations on LRA.

28. In Ituri district, the threat posed by militia groups, in particular the Front populaire pour la justice au Congo (FPJC) and the Front de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri (FRPI), persisted. On 2 December 2011, a militia group attacked a MONUSCO patrol in the Bunia area. On 22 December 2011, MONUSCO launched "Operation Santa Claus-Ituri" to ensure the protection of civilians during the Christmas to New Year period.

Humanitarian situation

29. Insecurity and clashes between armed groups and FARDC caused new population movements in the eastern provinces. Over 15,000 people were displaced in the Kivus and some 17,000 in Maniema province. Humanitarian agencies estimate that there were approximately 1.71 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Uélé districts, Maniema, the Kivus, and northern and central Katanga province as at 1 October 2011. That included roughly 1 million IDPs in North and South Kivu provinces and approximately 500,000 in Orientale province.

30. Humanitarian access continued to be a major concern for United Nations and non-governmental humanitarian partners. Between January and December 2011, 166 security incidents against humanitarian workers were recorded in North and South Kivu. In October 2011, five Congolese humanitarian workers were killed in South Kivu by Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba elements in what appeared to be a targeted ethnic-based attack.

31. Following a tripartite meeting held in Luanda, on 24 and 25 October 2011, between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola and UNHCR, the three parties agreed to launch repatriation operations on 4 November. Subsequently, 1,264 Angolan refugees in Bas-Congo province and 274 in Katanga province returned to Angola. Meanwhile, the expulsion of Congolese nationals from Angola continued, in some instances accompanied by serious human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence attributed to Angolan security forces. Between January and October 2011, over 85,000 people were reportedly expelled, several of whom experienced serious human rights abuses, including more than 3,700 reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence.

32. Over 126,000 cases of measles have been recorded since the outbreak of an epidemic in early 2011, notably in Katanga and Kasai Oriental provinces, with some 1,600 deaths, mainly of children. On 19 December, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, supported by the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, launched an immediate and medium-term response plan encompassing vaccinations and treatment in Bandundu, Bas-Congo, Kinshasa and North Kivu provinces. A polio outbreak persisted, with 92 cases recorded in Bandundu, Bas-Congo, Kasai Occidental, Katanga, Kinshasa and Maniema provinces. The cholera epidemic in Bandundu, Equateur, Kinshasa and Orientale provinces continued, with some 7,952 cases recorded, including 431 deaths. The intervention of humanitarian actors funded from the Central Emergency Response Fund helped to reduce death rates from 11 and 12 per cent of recorded cases in June to 5 and 6 per cent in November 2011. However, the epidemic

continued to spread to new areas, with 21,513 cases of cholera and 575 deaths reported in 2011. Malnutrition, in particular acute malnutrition among children under the age of five, continued to be critical in western provinces.

33. On 14 December 2011, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs launched the global Consolidated Humanitarian Appeals for 2012, including a request for $719 million to cover the most urgent humanitarian needs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The 2011 Humanitarian Appeal for the Democratic Republic of the Congo sought $721 million and was 62 per cent funded.

Regional developments

34. On 12 November 2011, President Jacob Zuma of South Africa and President Joseph Kabila signed a preliminary agreement to develop the Grand Inga Dam in the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the Inga Falls on the Congo River in Bas-Congo province. The dam would reportedly be the largest hydroelectric power scheme in the world, with the potential capacity to generate some 40,000 megawatts.

35. On 15 and 16 December 2011, the fourth ordinary summit meeting of Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in Kampala, elected the candidate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ntumba Luaba, as the new Executive Secretary of the organization, effective 1 January. The summit, which included a special session on sexual and gender-based violence, issued a declaration aimed at preventing and ending impunity with regard to sexual and gender-based violence in States members of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

III. Implementation of the mandate of United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Protection of civilians

36. MONUSCO, together with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and in line with the United Nations system-wide strategy on the protection of civilians, developed and implemented a joint contingency plan to meet specific protection needs during the electoral period. Under this plan, MONUSCO redeployed some troops and police, including approximately 1,400 uniformed personnel deployed in Kinshasa, who conducted active patrols prior to, during and after the polls. With approximately 94 per cent of MONUSCO troops based in the eastern provinces, several units were placed on standby for rapid deployment across the country in the event of a deterioration of the security situation.

37. From October to December 2011, MONUSCO conducted 13 joint protection team missions in North and South Kivu, Katanga, Ituri and Haut Uélé. In all, 46 joint protection team missions were conducted in 2011. The first pilot phase of 24 Community Alert Networks established in North and South Kivu and in Orientale province enabled more than 200 communities in isolated areas to contact local authorities and/or MONUSCO through the Mission's Community Liaison Assistants, in order to alert and request intervention in the event of threats to their communities. The establishment of an additional 20 Community Alert Networks began during the reporting period. The Community Alert Networks are complemented by a high-

frequency radio project that is being implemented by partner international non-governmental organizations for some areas without cell phone coverage.

38. In November 2011, MONUSCO organized two civilian protection training-of-trainers programmes and general training for 175 staff members in Kinshasa, Goma, Bukavu and Bunia, in partnership with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre. With the technical support of Search for Common Ground, MONUSCO also organized conflict resolution workshops in Bas Uélé in October 2011, aimed at facilitating peaceful cohabitation among the M'bororo pastoralists, FARDC, local communities and local public authorities.

Preparations for the elections

39. MONUSCO provided technical advice to the Independent National Electoral Commission and logistical support for the successful deployment of 3,977 tons of sensitive and non-sensitive material to 15 hubs and 210 sub-hubs throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo in support of the presidential and legislative elections, under an extremely tight time frame. In addition, while the Commission carried out the deployment of electoral material to some 17,000 polling centres and 64,000 polling stations, MONUSCO transported material to 400 polling stations in areas identified as insecure and/or remote. In close collaboration with MONUSCO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also supported the Commission in updating the voters' register, procuring electoral training and sensitization materials, paying allowances through the Commission to some 336,000 national electoral staff and 84,500 police, providing institutional support to the National Data Treatment Centre, setting up the Commission website and facilitating meetings between the Commission and various electoral stakeholders.

40. MONUSCO continued its good offices efforts, including by providing support to the Independent National Electoral Commission to facilitate dialogue through the convening of meetings of the Forum of Political Parties, the Commission and political parties and youth organizations and numerous meetings at the national and provincial levels of political party representatives and religious leaders. In this connection, MONUSCO and UNDP supported the Commission in organizing 26 youth workshops in Kinshasa and in each of the provinces to sensitize youth on their role in ensuring a peaceful environment for the elections. MONUSCO also supported the holding of a subregional workshop on gender and preventive diplomacy in Goma from 15 to 17 November, which was attended by 120 participants from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. The workshop adopted a declaration on the prevention of electoral violence and recommended strategies for strengthening peace and security mechanisms in the Great Lakes region during elections. Furthermore, MONUSCO conducted a gender sensitization campaign in collaboration with the Independent National Electoral Commission, UNDP, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the National Democratic Institute, during which about 900 women candidates for the legislative elections and 515 trainers of women candidates for the provincial and local elections were trained on electoral issues. In addition, Radio Okapi broadcast voter education programmes in French and four local languages, and supported the participation of a range of political stakeholders in radio debates, dialogue and discussion. This included broadcasting interviews with several presidential candidates.

41. In addition to completing the training of six crowd control units in Kinshasa, comprising 3,000 Congolese National Police personnel, MONUSCO conducted specialized election security training for 15,531 Congolese National Police officers, including 984 policewomen, as well as 180 other police officers and 50 FARDC personnel. From 10 to 24 November 2011, a joint security assessment of the provinces was conducted by the Congolese National Police, FARDC and MONUSCO and led by the Congolese National Police Commissioner-General. MONUSCO police also provided operational advice to the Congolese National Police and supported the deployment of personnel and equipment to relevant areas.

Stabilization and progress on achieving a coordinated approach towards peacebuilding

42. On 30 October, President Kabila signed a presidential ordinance extending the Stabilization and Reconstruction Plan for Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (STAREC) until June 2014. During the period under review, MONUSCO and partners completed the development of the second phase of the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy (ISSSS): the stabilization priority plan for 2012-2014. The plan identifies 37 priority projects aimed at expanding stabilization efforts in North and South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema and Katanga provinces.

43. Under ISSSS, in South Kivu, sections of the Baraka-Fizi-Minembwe road and the Otobora-Musenge road were rehabilitated. Two FARDC garrisons and the rehabilitation of the Hombo bridge on a principal road between North and South Kivu were also completed. The transfer of a first group of 90 prisoners to the newly constructed prison in Rutshuru took place and planning began for the transfer of prisoners to the Bunyakiri prison, which was also completed. In Ituri, the construction of 10 police stations was completed and 80 police officers received specialized training in combating sexual violence.

44. MONUSCO and the United Nations country team completed the development of the 2011-2013 United Nations Transitional Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Framework articulates common areas of joint activities and collaboration between MONUSCO and the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes with a view to ensuring coherence and avoiding duplication. On 3 November 2011, the draft Peace Consolidation Programme, which was developed in consultation with key Government stakeholders, was presented to donors. It is to be submitted to the Government for final approval during the first quarter of 2012.

45. On 2 November, UNDP released the *Human Development Report 2011*, which ranked the Democratic Republic of the Congo 187th of the 187 countries listed in its 2011 Human Development Index.

Human rights

46. On 9 November 2011, MONUSCO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) issued a report documenting 188 human rights violations of varying degrees of severity linked to the electoral process that occurred between 1 November 2010 and 30 September 2011. From 1 October to 31 December 2011, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office documented an additional 221 election-related human rights violations, the majority of which were allegedly committed by national security elements. The violations most frequently infringed individuals' freedom of expression, the right to physical integrity and the

right to liberty and security of person and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. Numerous cases of arbitrary arrest and ill-treatment, primarily of supporters of the political opposition, were also reported across the country, often linked with attempts to assemble peacefully. There were also incidents of violence and disturbance of public order committed by supporters of political parties.

47. In particular, a human rights investigation conducted by the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office that is ongoing found that at least 27 people were killed and others wounded in Kinshasa between 26 November and 12 December 2011, including by gunshots fired by elements of the national security forces, including the Republican Guard. Reports of similar incidents, which are also being verified and further investigated, were received from Bas-Congo, North Kivu, Kasai Occidental and Kasai Oriental. In other parts of the country, during the same period, elements of the national security forces reportedly committed several killings, including at least one person in Matadi, one in North Kivu, two in Kasai Occidental and two in Kasai Oriental.

48. On 13 December 2011 in Goma, North Kivu, five members of opposition political parties, including the provincial representative of UDPS and a candidate of the Union pour la nation congolaise for the National Assembly, were arrested following an attempt to organize a public protest that was quickly dispersed by the police. On 20 December 2011, a tribunal in Goma acquitted four of the five accused for lack of evidence. The fifth accused was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, including a six-month suspended sentence. On 20 December 2011, in Butembo, Congolese National Police personnel arrested five UDPS members and two Union pour la nation congolaise members for criticizing the electoral process in public. On 22 December 2011, following the intervention of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office, the prosecutor ordered their release. On 21 December 2011, a tribunal in Bukavu acquitted 11 opposition party members of charges of criminal participation in a rebellion following their attempt to organize a public protest during a period when political demonstrations were prohibited by provincial authorities. They were released from pretrial custody on 22 December 2011.

49. Armed groups remained a major threat to civilians in the Kivus and in Orientale province. More than 90 human rights abuses by armed groups, mostly by Mayi-Mayi, FRPI, FDLR and LRA elements, were documented by the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office during the reporting period.

50. Some progress was made in combating impunity. Several mobile courts held trials throughout the country, some with the support of MONUSCO. The Isiro Military Tribunal in Orientale province held mobile hearings from 18 October to 10 November 2011, during which 30 FARDC soldiers, non-commissioned officers, a commander and a civilian were sentenced to penalties ranging from six months of imprisonment to death for murder, attempted murder and rape. From 1 to 9 November 2011, the Military Court of South Kivu sentenced 12 FARDC soldiers, including 11 convicted of rape, to prison terms ranging from five years to life imprisonment. Between 15 and 24 November 2011, a military mobile court in Masisi, South Kivu, sentenced 18 people, including two Congolese National Police personnel and four FARDC personnel, to prison terms ranging between 2 and 20 years for sexual violence perpetrated against female minors. On 6 December 2011, the trial of "Colonel" Sandoke Kirunda Mayele, a former Mayi-Mayi Cheka commander, and others began in Goma with regard to the mass rapes and other serious human rights

violations committed along the Kibua-Mpofi road in Walikale territory, North Kivu, in July and August 2010.

51. Little progress was made, however, regarding other cases of rape and serious human rights violations, including those committed in Mutongo and surrounding villages, in Walikale territory, in Bushani and Kalambahiro, Masisi territory, North Kivu, and other cases. The perpetrators of these crimes, with the exception of a commander implicated in the rapes in Walikale, have yet to be arrested. On 21 October 2011, Colonel Safari, one of the five FARDC officers alleged to have committed rapes and other human rights violations, whose names were given by a delegation of the Security Council to President Kabila in Kinshasa in May 2009, was acquitted by the military court of Kinshasa for lack of evidence. The prosecution of FRF elements recently integrated into FARDC and who allegedly raped nine women and looted a health centre and several households in Kikozi, Uvira territory, South Kivu, in March 2011, has yet to start due to lack of cooperation on the part of the FARDC leadership in South Kivu with military justice authorities.

Sexual violence

52. The adoption, on 16 December 2011, by the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of a declaration on sexual and gender-based violence that recognized its severe impact on the individual, family, community and State in the Great Lakes region (see para. 35) marked an important step with regard to the engagement of the States members of the Conference on this important issue.

53. Between 13 and 18 November 2011, an OHCHR team visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo to follow up on the recommendations of the report of the Panel on Remedies and Reparations for Victims of Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, issued on 3 March 2011, within the framework of the project on reparations for victims of sexual violence in the country funded by the Government of Brazil. Under the same project, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office entered into partnership with three new legal clinics in Equateur province, to facilitate access to justice for victims of sexual violence.

54. In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2,131 victims of sexual violence received medical assistance and 1,590 psychosocial care, while 568 benefited from reintegration programmes and 34 from legal referrals. Progress was also made towards the establishment of a harmonized approach to support victims with the completion of the medical, the psychosocial, the reintegration and the legal referral protocols among partners. With funding from the Swedish International Development Agency, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office supported the rehabilitation of offices for the Special Sexual Violence Units of the Congolese National Police in Lubumbashi. In South Kivu and Orientale province, MONUSCO trained 130 military trainers and 30 senior FARDC officers, while 2,000 FARDC soldiers were sensitized on sexual and gender-based violence.

Children and armed conflict

55. MONUSCO documented 153 cases of children who were separated from armed groups and national security forces. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Ministry of Defence established a Joint Committee and nominated focal points to discuss the action plan to end the recruitment and the use of children

by FARDC. However, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has not yet issued an official communication to confirm its commitment to develop, adopt and implement such a plan. Children were seen voting in several provinces and were reportedly hired as political party witnesses in some areas.

Illegal exploitation of natural resources

56. With the assistance of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, countries in the subregion, notably Rwanda and Burundi, took measures to raise mining operators' awareness of due diligence guidelines in accordance with Security Council resolution 1952 (2010). The Rwanda Geology and Mines Authority launched a pilot project on mineral certification and Burundian authorities held a number of awareness-raising workshops for relevant stakeholders. In November 2011, Rwandan border officials returned 80 tons of intercepted minerals to Congolese authorities due to improved traceability of parcels of cassiterite, coltan and wolframite.

57. On 28 November 2011, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo added Ntabo Ntaberi Cheka, leader of the Mayi-Mayi Cheka armed group, to its travel ban and assets freeze list. The Committee noted that the Mayi-Mayi Cheka had carried out attacks on mines in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, including taking over the Bisiye mines in North Kivu and extorting from locals. Cheka, who filed his candidature for the legislative elections, faces arrest and prosecution for his alleged involvement in mass rapes and other human rights violations committed by a coalition of armed groups along the Kibua-Mpofi road in Walikale territory in July-August 2010.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration/disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration

58. During the reporting period, MONUSCO facilitated the repatriation of 253 adult combatants, most of whom were FDLR, as well as 353 dependents and 4 children associated with armed groups. In addition, 77 Congolese FDLR combatants and 74 children were disarmed. The number of active FDLR combatants, now estimated to be less than 2,000, continued to fall.

59. Through its regional radio network, MONUSCO continued to strengthen sensitization efforts to encourage defections from LRA. Twenty-two LRA elements participated in the MONUSCO disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programme following the release of two groups of LRA dependants. In coordination with MONUSCO, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the Government of South Sudan assisted in the expansion of the coverage of the regional radio networks. In addition, 50,000 leaflets on disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration were distributed by the Ugandan People's Defence Force and the Sudan People's Liberation Army in their respective areas of operation. The Government of Burundi continued to refuse the return of Burundian ex-combatants. Meanwhile, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process for the 4,000 residual Congolese former combatants remained suspended.

Mine action

60. Explosive remnants of war and ammunition depots in local communities remained a major security and safety threat. On 28 November 2011, MONUSCO cleared explosive remnants of war following an attack by armed men against an ammunition storage facility within a FARDC camp in Lubumbashi. The United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre also worked with FARDC contingents to improve the physical security and management of their ammunition depots in Goma and Kisangani.

Support to security sector development

61. MONUSCO had little opportunity to support the efforts of the Government to coordinate security sector reform because of the focus on presidential and national elections. With the approval of the Minister of Justice, MONUSCO continued to work with Congolese authorities on mapping data on the capacities of the Congolese judiciary and corrections institutions.

Police

62. MONUSCO police continued to support the Executive Secretariat of the Steering Committee for Police Reform in the development of a legal framework for the implementation of legislation promulgated in August 2011 on police reform, as well as legislation on the status of police personnel. On 8 October 2011, the census of the national police funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Organization for Migration was completed. According to the census results, the Congolese National Police comprises 110,097 personnel.

63. In October 2011, MONUSCO began two six-month basic training programmes funded by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, in Kapalata, Orientale province, and in Kasangulu, Bas-Congo province, for 500 police recruits at each location, in close cooperation with UNDP.

Rule of law and corrections

64. With support from the European Union and the Government of the United States, MONUSCO supported initiatives launched during the reporting period aimed at improving civilian justice and computerizing the military justice institutions, respectively.

65. On 7 and 13 October 2011, presidential ordinances ordered the early retirement of 61 magistrates. At the request of the High Judicial Council, MONUSCO supported the deployment of 352 newly appointed magistrates to eight provinces. These deployments are part of the plan by the High Judicial Council to strengthen the judiciary by elevating 490 prosecutors to the bench. Approval by the Minister of Justice and Human Rights of the draft multi-year joint justice support programme was still pending at the time of this report.

66. MONUSCO supported the Ministry of Defence to establish five Prosecution Support Cells, four of which are operational in Bukavu, Goma, Bunia and Kalemie. The fifth is expected to be established in Kindu, Maniema province, in early 2012. In Goma, the Prosecution Support Cell is providing support for the trial of alleged perpetrators of the Walikale atrocities of July and August 2010 (see para. 50).

67. The pre-election period was marked by prison unrest, including strikes by prison staff, prisoner riots and mass escapes. The reporting period witnessed the escape of about 614 inmates, of whom 402, including 129 FARDC soldiers, escaped from the Kangbayi prison in Beni, North Kivu, when it was attacked during the night of 27 November, allegedly by Mayi-Mayi elements. On 1 January, a prison break attempt at the Bukavu Central Prison, in South Kivu, resulted in the death of 8 prisoners and the injury of 47 others. Health conditions also remain a grave concern, with 22 deaths of inmates recorded in November and December 2011. MONUSCO initiated the formation of four inter-agency prison reform working groups led by Congolese authorities to help fast-track prison reform activities. Several prison assessments were conducted and some facilities continued to undergo rehabilitation.

Joint assessment process

68. The United Nations and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to assess the situation on the ground and progress made towards the implementation of the objectives outlined in paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 1991 (2011). In December 2011, joint assessment teams were deployed in the Kivus and in Orientale province. The teams noted the deployment of the newly formed FARDC regiments, as well as improved FARDC effectiveness in addressing the presence of armed groups, especially in the Kivus, where operations were conducted against FDLR and the Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba. A number of attacks by ADF in Beni territory, in North Kivu, were also successfully thwarted. The teams nevertheless noted the forging of alliances between Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba and some smaller Mayi-Mayi groups and FNL, as well as the reactivation and the creation of several new vigilante groups in North and South Kivu.

Mission deployment

69. Some progress was made following my letter dated 20 September to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/589) towards alleviating the shortage of military helicopters in MONUSCO. On 18 November 2011, an additional utility helicopter provided by the Government of South Africa arrived in the Mission area. Three utility helicopters provided by the Government of Pakistan arrived in the Mission area in December, while the Government of Uruguay confirmed the pledge of one additional utility helicopter that is expected to arrive during the first half of 2012. On 22 December 2011, the Government of Ukraine confirmed a contribution of four attack helicopters to MONUSCO that are expected to be deployed in early 2012. Even with these contributions in place, MONUSCO will still face a shortfall of four military utility helicopters and two attack helicopters.

IV. Observations

70. As the Security Council underlined in its resolution 1991 (2011), inclusive, peaceful, credible and transparent elections are a key condition for the consolidation of democracy, national reconciliation and the restoration of stability, peace and security in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In this context, I welcome the participation of the Congolese people in the 28 November presidential and legislative elections. I also take note of the efforts of the Independent National Electoral Commission to carry out this challenging operation, with the technical and logistical support of MONUSCO and UNDP and the financial support of the

Democratic Republic of the Congo's bilateral and multilateral partners. I further note that the Congolese authorities took the lead role in the preparation and conduct of these elections, which is an important step in the country's transition.

71. However, many serious irregularities were observed in the management of the electoral process. In addition, the Democratic Republic of the Congo may continue to face a period of uncertainty connected with the electoral process. In this context, I urge the Independent National Electoral Commission, in close consultation with Congolese and international stakeholders, to address the shortcomings identified by a number of observers of the presidential and legislative elections and to take the necessary corrective measures in a timely manner. This should include a comprehensive review of the electoral process, whose results and lessons learned should be utilized in conducting the provincial and local elections in 2012 and 2013, respectively. I also encourage all the parties to use the existing legal and mediation mechanisms for the resolution of pending electoral disputes.

72. Incidents of violence connected with the elections are of serious concern. Elections should be an opportunity to consolidate stability and the gains of peace and development. In this regard, while a significant deterioration in the security situation was avoided, the presidential and legislative elections were seriously marred by a number of deaths and injuries. Furthermore, national security force elements were reportedly involved in a number of extrajudicial executions and arbitrary arrests, and committed other serious human rights violations. I strongly urge the Congolese authorities to ensure respect for human rights, including through avoiding the excessive use of force and complying with international human rights law in dealing with public demonstrations and other instances of civil unrest that may accompany future elections. Perpetrators of human rights violations should also be held accountable. In this connection, the findings of MONUSCO investigations into reported human rights violations related to the elections will be included in my next report.

73. In the east, notably in the Kivus, some of the momentum that was lost in recent months in addressing the armed groups was regained following the completion of the FARDC regimentation process. FDLR, which continues to pose a major threat to civilians in the Kivus, continued to show signs of stress and internal weakness due to military and judicial pressure and disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration efforts of MONUSCO. Several Congolese armed groups also continued to pose a serious threat to the civilian population in the areas where they are present and the parallel chain of command of CNDP elements integrated into FARDC remained worrisome.

74. While the reported number of civilians killed and abducted by LRA in the Democratic Republic of the Congo declined, the group continued to inflict grave suffering on thousands of civilians in the Uélés, Orientale province. A robust and flexible military posture in the area remains important, as reflected in the end of year military operations of MONUSCO to protect civilians in the Uélés. MONUSCO, UNMISS and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic also took additional steps to increase cross-border and inter-mission cooperation, particularly with regard to disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration efforts targeting LRA. Coordinated regional efforts are key to addressing the threat posed by the armed group and, in this regard, I welcome the progress made by the African Union and the four affected

countries regarding the regional cooperation initiative against LRA. I am pleased to note the appointment by the African Union of a Special Envoy on LRA and the visits that he carried out jointly with my Special Representative and Head of UNOCA to the affected countries in January.

75. Military helicopters are crucial for the fulfilment of the mandate of MONUSCO in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. I welcome the considerable progress made to address the shortfall with new deployments from the Governments of South Africa and Pakistan. I also welcome the additional pledges by the Governments of Ukraine and Uruguay. I am hopeful that outstanding critical gaps will be addressed soon by further contributions by Member States, particularly the provision of attack helicopters. Their availability is essential to ensure the operational capability of MONUSCO to carry out civilian protection and other priority mandated tasks.

76. Sexual violence continues to be a major concern, although progress has been made by Congolese judicial authorities to prosecute some of these crimes. The majority of acts of sexual violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo are committed by armed groups, notably FDLR, as well as by elements integrated into FARDC, including from CNDP and other former Congolese armed groups. This underscores the importance of neutralizing the threat of armed groups, as well as the need to review the FARDC approach to the integration of armed groups, which MONUSCO stands ready to support. In the meantime, ongoing efforts by my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, in collaboration with MONUSCO, including strengthening the capacity of the Congolese judicial authorities to prosecute and convict the perpetrators of sexual violence, remain essential. It will also be important for national authorities to develop, on an urgent basis, a new national justice strategic plan for the strengthening of judicial and corrections institutions.

77. I am concerned by the reports of serious human rights violations, including sexual violence, that have accompanied the expulsion of Congolese nationals from Angola. I encourage the Government of Angola to continue its constructive engagement with my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and other United Nations entities to implement the joint communiqué of 24 March 2011. I urge the Governments of Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enhance dialogue aimed at addressing this issue. The United Nations stands ready to further assist in ensuring respect for international norms and standards relating to migration control, expulsions, sexual violence and other human rights violations.

78. The security situation in North and South Kivu and Orientale province continues to cause large-scale humanitarian problems, in particular for the 1.7 million displaced civilians and their host communities. In western parts of the country, the spread of epidemics and food insecurity remain serious concerns. Sustained donor support for life-saving protection and assistance to ensure that countrywide humanitarian needs can be addressed in a timely manner remains of great importance.

79. On a positive note, I welcome the renewed commitment of the Government to enhance stabilization efforts in the eastern provinces, and the progress made so far in implementing ISSSS and its successor, the stabilization priority plan. More engagement is needed, however, particularly in areas of the country not covered by STAREC. In this regard, I encourage the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to adopt expeditiously the Peace Consolidation Programme, and encourage donors to provide adequate resources to support stabilization activities and wider development programmes.

80. Finally, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all MONUSCO civilian, military and police personnel and the United Nations country team for their invaluable contribution to the stabilization of the Democratic Republic of the Congo under the leadership of my Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Roger Meece, particularly during this critical electoral period. MONUSCO and UNDP in particular provided critical, timely and much needed support to Congolese electoral authorities, without which the presidential and legislative elections could not have taken place. I remain grateful to countries contributing troops and police to MONUSCO, and reiterate my appreciation for the support of donor countries and multilateral non-governmental organizations.

United Nations S/2012/66

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 January 2012

Original: English

Letter dated 25 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my previous correspondence in regard to the humanitarian situation in the two States of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Sudan, consistent with its keenness to enhance the already existing cooperation with the United Nations agencies working in the humanitarian field, has laid down procedures to further organize and regulate the working relationship with those agencies. A list containing the procedures is herewith enclosed (see annex).

I further have the honour to inform you that it has been agreed between Ms. Amira Al-Fadil, Minister of Welfare and Social Security, and Ms. Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, that the competent authorities in the Sudan will cooperate closely with the United Nations agencies to perform a joint assessment of the humanitarian needs and in sharing information on the humanitarian situation in the two States.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative

12-21646 (E) 270112

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 25 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Procedures for the work of the United Nations agencies and international organizations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile

The United Nations agencies and international organizations that already had offices in place and operating in the field of development and reconstruction in the two States of South Kordofan and Blue Nile before the latest events are allowed to resume their work according to the following procedures:

1. The international humanitarian aid and relief agencies and organizations have to sign technical agreements with the Humanitarian Aid Commission in order to implement their projects. Those agencies and organizations should bear in mind the developments in the State while implementing their projects.

2. The Commission and the Sudanese Red Crescent will receive, deliver and channel the relief material.

3. The basic services projects (education, health and water) will be delivered by the national institutions, that is, the relevant ministries and national organizations. The officers representing the specialized agencies and organizations in the above-mentioned field will be allowed to visit and cooperate with the concerned ministry in the capitals of the two States.

4. The social development projects having direct contact with citizens will be implemented by the national institutions, that is, the relevant ministries and national organizations.

5. The directors of the offices of the United Nations agencies and international organizations are allowed to be present in the State capital only upon a request to the Commission to approve the designated person and the time limit, in consultation with the concerned federal authorities.

6. The Commission will coordinate with the international organizations and agencies and the Sudanese federal authorities regarding the contribution of these organizations and agencies to the infrastructure projects in the two States.

United Nations S/2012/67

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 January 2012
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 27 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and with reference to the most recent open meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East held on 24 January 2012, I should like to draw attention to the following:

Certain parties in the Security Council continue to force it to consider internal developments in Syria on the basis of unfounded pretexts that are unrelated to the Security Council's role and its responsibility for maintaining international peace and security under the Charter. They simply want to turn the Security Council into a tool for implementing their interventionist plans, which are completely alien to the spirit, principles and purposes of the United Nations. Over the past 10 months, those parties have assiduously sought to forcibly introduce the events in Syria into the Security Council's discussions under the item on the situation in the Middle East. As everyone is aware, that item has traditionally been reserved for considering the implementation of United Nations resolutions, including those of the Security Council, on ending Israeli occupation of Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan, in accordance with the borders of 4 June 1967, and halting Israel's violation of international humanitarian law, human rights law and the other relevant international instruments, with a view to achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the region. In that connection, I should like to make the following points:

1. The Syrian Arab Republic rejects this irrational, politically motivated campaign and the frantic, futile efforts aimed at subverting the Syrian Government and casting doubt on its legitimacy, smearing the Syrian Arab Republic, its people and its leadership, and undermining the important role that Syria plays at the Arab, regional and international level. Syria condemns in the strongest terms the violation by certain delegations of diplomatic decorum in the Security Council chamber, their blatant interference in the affairs of a sovereign State that is a founding Member of the United Nations and their attempts to undermine a symbol of its sovereignty, namely, its President. Such irresponsible conduct sets a dangerous precedent with regard to the norms of decorum in the Organization. It furthermore constitutes a reckless call to violence and serves as a cover for the terrorist acts being committed by armed groups in Syria aimed at destabilizing our country and the region. Moreover, such conduct is a blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and prevailing diplomatic norms.

Please recycle

2. The delegations of the United States of America, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Guatemala, Japan, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the European Union all cited the resolutions of the League of Arab States concerning the events in Syria. In that connection, we would like to note that Syria has proven that it has complied fully and strictly with the Protocol concerning the observers and the Arab plan of action for resolving the Syrian crisis. There is no longer any armed presence in the streets, detainees have been released and Arab and foreign media organizations have entered the country. The Syrian authorities have not resorted to any form of violence and have exercised maximum self-restraint, a policy that has spurred armed groups to commit further attacks against State institutions and kill more civilians and members of the security forces and the military. All of this took place in full view of the members of the League of Arab States Observer Mission to Syria, who have themselves verified the events and conveyed them faithfully and objectively in their report. We brought the findings of that report to your attention in our letter dated 25 January 2012, which will be issued as document S/2012/63. As for the most recent so-called Arab resolution, which was drafted in Washington and other Western capitals, it is nothing more than an attempt to avoid acknowledging the success of the Arab observers and to disregard their report because it does not accord with the plans of certain Gulf Arab States, which have, from the outset, sought to ensure the failure of the Observer Mission in order to justify international intervention. Syria therefore rejects the resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level concerning Syria adopted outside the framework of the Arab plan of action and the Protocol concluded with the League. Those resolutions violate its national sovereignty and are a blatant attempt to interfere in its internal affairs. They also constitute a flagrant violation of the purposes of the League and chapter eight of its Charter. Syria affirms its rejection of the League's most recent resolution, which was adopted as part of the overt conspiracy against Syria that is being directed by Gulf agents. The Council of the League at the ministerial level should shoulder its responsibility to stop the flow of funds and arms to terrorist groups that are killing innocent Syrian citizens and attacking the institutions and infrastructure of the Syrian State. It should furthermore strive to stop the misleading media campaign that has resulted in the death or injury of innocent Syrian citizens. Instead, we hear individuals making inflammatory statements, thus pointing to their involvement in the plot to undermine the security of the Syrian people by inviting foreign intervention in the country's affairs. The resolution deliberately overlooks Syria's efforts to implement the comprehensive reform plan announced by President Bashar Al-Assad. It should be noted that many of the Arab States that are leading the campaign of aggression against Syria do not have such a plan in place.

3. In the speech he delivered on Tuesday, 10 January 2012, President Al-Assad recalled several important initiatives that, taken together, constitute a plan for Syria's future. Among those initiatives are several new laws that were adopted as part of the reform process and which entered into force recently. A new Constitution was adopted and will soon be put to a referendum. This new Constitution stipulates, inter alia, that power is derived from the people and provides for a multiparty political system. Parliamentary elections will be held under the new Constitution and a new, expanded Government comprising politicians and technocrats representing all sectors of Syrian society will be formed. The President also called for the continuation of the inclusive national dialogue and the implementation of

various reforms aimed at involving youth and increasing their role in Syria's advancement.

4. The fact that the delegations to which I referred earlier have ignored the substance of several letters from the Syrian Government addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council demonstrates that, rather than helping the Syrian people to achieve reform, they intend to use the capabilities of certain Arab States in order to finance terrorism, with a view to killing Syrian citizens and destroying the Syrian people's political, economic and social achievements.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council on an urgent basis.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the
Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations

United Nations S/2012/68

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 January 2012

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 13 of Security Council resolution 2032 (2011), by which the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to inform it of progress in implementing the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) in 60-day intervals and to continue to bring to its attention any serious violations of the Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area (S/2011/384, annex), signed on 20 June 2011 in Addis Ababa. In the present report, reference is also made to paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2024 (2011), by which the Council requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed of progress in implementing the additional tasks listed in paragraph 1 of the resolution. The report provides an update on the situation in Abyei and on the deployment and operations of UNISFA since the previous report on the matter, of 27 November 2011 (S/2011/741).

II. Security situation

2. During the reporting period, the security situation in the Abyei Area remained tense and volatile owing to the continued presence of security forces, the large-scale migration of Misseriya nomads and the beginning of the return of displaced Ngok Dinka, 3,000 of whom have returned to the Abyei Area over the past two months. As at 23 January 2012, the armed forces and police of the Government of the Sudan remained present in the area north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River, especially in Abyei town, Goli, Baloom and the Diffra area. The Government of the Sudan continued to link the redeployment of its forces to the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration.

3. The South Sudan Police Service maintained its presence in the entire area south of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River, concentrating mainly on the Agok, Majbon, Awang and Mabok area. The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) continued to maintain its brigade headquarters in Mijan Kol, approximately 3 km south of Agok and the Abyei Area boundary, as established on 9 November 2011. While urging both parties to adhere to the 20 June Agreement and withdraw from the Abyei Area, the Head of Mission, Lieutenant-General Tadesse Werede Tesfay, continued to engage the high command of the Sudanese Armed Forces and SPLA to secure their

Please recycle

commitment to refrain from any hostile or provocative posture likely to disrupt the return of displaced Ngok Dinka and the migration of Misseriya nomads.

4. During the reporting period, no intercommunal conflict was reported. UNISFA continued to conduct proactive day-and-night patrols throughout the area of operations to deter any potential security threats and establish confidence by the Head of Mission between the two communities. The patrols focused in particular on sensitive areas that were receiving both returnees and nomads, such as Marial Achak in Sector South, Noong, Tejalei and Leu in Sector Centre and Alal, Goli, Mekines, Diffra, Um Khariet, Todach and Thurpader in Sector North. In order to ensure security and better protect returnees and migrants, UNISFA requested the local command of the Sudanese Armed Forces to confine all Forces to their camps and restrict their movements by obliging them to use only the main road and only during the day. In Abyei town, UNISFA continued to man checkpoints to control all movements.

5. The annual southward migration of Misseriya nomads through the Abyei Area continued during the reporting period to Dokura, Dumboloya, Tejalei, Alal, Todach, Noong, Thurpader, north of Tejalei and Khachkhach. While initially only men with the cattle were observed, UNISFA reported an increasing number of entire families moving with the herds. The mission estimated that, as at 19 January, about 75,000 nomads and more than 960,000 cattle were in the Abyei Area. It was reported that the largest concentration of nomads was in the western corridor through Alal and Raigork and the eastern corridor through Um Khariet and Thurpader.

6. Efforts by UNISFA to enhance security in the Abyei Area were further improved by the deployment of members of the United Nations Mine Action Service to the mission. The arrival of a team of 30 road verification and clearance personnel enabled UNISFA to give priority to expanding the mission's military access. In this regard, using mine-protected vehicles, the team cleared the routes connecting Abyei town, Leu and Marial Achak; Abyei town, Wanchuk, Tejalei, Kuthakou, Um Khariet and Dumboloya; Um Khariet and Thurpader; Abyei town, Noong, Alal, Saheib, Ed Dahlob and Shigai; and Ed Dahlob, Amam, El Shamam and Goli. As at 23 January, a tactical survey of 212 km of roads for military operations was completed. The United Nations Mine Action Service was preparing to deploy additional road proving teams in support of the border management mechanism mandated by the Security Council in its resolution 2024 (2011).

7. In addition, an Ethiopian demining platoon was tasked with taking action in six dangerous areas contaminated with unexploded ordnance in Noong and Alal. An unexploded 60-mm mortar shell unearthed during construction work at the UNISFA headquarters camp was safely destroyed. Work started on enlarging the road connecting Banton, Rumamier, Marial Achak, Leu, Wanchuk and Dokura so that it could become an 8-m-wide corridor for humanitarian actors to access an area of high priority for returnees. Two additional multitasking teams were deployed in that area and began survey and clearance operations.

III. Political developments

8. During the period under review, the effective implementation of the 20 June Agreement on the Abyei Area continued to be severely hampered by serious differences between the parties on the practical and technical modalities for the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration. The Government of South Sudan

maintained its position that the formation of the Legislative Council was contingent upon the nomination by the Government of the Sudan of a Ngok Dinka to the position of Speaker, but the Government of the Sudan continued to claim it was not bound by any such agreement.

9. However, encouraging prospects for breaking the political impasse emerged from the second meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, held in Abyei on 12 and 13 December 2011. Although the meeting did not result in concrete measures on the main issues (the composition of the Administration and the withdrawal of troops), it allowed for a useful opportunity for the parties to engage in direct dialogue in Abyei for the first time since the conflict of May 2011. Recognizing the urgent need to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected communities in the Abyei Area, the two parties agreed to determine, in close coordination with UNISFA and relevant humanitarian agencies of the United Nations, practical modalities for free and unhindered access by humanitarian agencies to all affected communities in the Abyei Area. UNISFA has since worked with the authorities to enable this access, including by increasing demining efforts and engaging directly with the communities.

10. The third meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, held in Abyei on 18 and 19 January 2012 resulted in the adoption of a joint appeal for sustainable return and the restoration of livelihoods and in a series of decisions meant to facilitate the effective implementation of the 20 June Agreement. Significant in this regard were the decisions on humanitarian assistance, the return of displaced persons and nomads without weapons, the establishment and operationalization of the Committee's secretariat in Abyei, the setting up of a follow-up mechanism for the implementation of Committee decisions and the composition of the Joint Military Observers Committee and of the joint military observer teams. Of equal importance were the decisions on the initial steps required for the formation of the Abyei Police Service and the convening of "coexistence conferences" between the communities. The other agreed points, which were designed to facilitate the work of UNISFA, were the acknowledgement of the instructions of the Government of the Sudan for the signing of the status-of-forces agreement, the support of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee for the continued engagement of UNISFA with the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities and the arrangement for allocating land to UNISFA.

11. During the first meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, held on 17 September 2011, the parties agreed to establish border crossings and recommitted themselves to implementing the security agreements, pending the creation of a reference map of the safe demilitarized border zone. Despite efforts made during the previous round of negotiations (21-30 November 2011), the parties had yet to agree to the map proposed by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, thus precluding the holding of another meeting of the Mechanism. The fundamental issues between the parties remained the proposal for a timeline for demarcation and the use of arbitration as a mechanism for resolving disputes over contested areas. In addition, no clear agreement was reached regarding the demarcation of the undisputed part of the border (80 per cent) or the delineation and demarcation of the disputed part of the border (20 per cent).

12. In the meantime, UNISFA was making all the arrangements necessary to prepare for the additional tasks it was mandated to carry out by Security Council resolution

2024 (2011), while awaiting further clarity on the joint border verification and monitoring mechanism, including its formal establishment, a time frame for its implementation and the locations of the joint border verification and monitoring sectors and the joint border monitoring teams. A meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism that had been scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa on 21 January to address the outstanding issues relative to the joint border verification and monitoring mechanism was postponed to 26 January due to the inadequate level of representation of the delegations.

13. No discussions are currently taking place on the final status of Abyei. Both Presidents have asked the African Union High-level Implementation Panel to propose a final status arrangement, as the parties have been unable to reach an acceptable compromise. To date, the Panel has focused its efforts on the full implementation of the 20 June Agreement, not on other proposals.

IV. Humanitarian situation

14. Humanitarian organizations continued to provide relief assistance to the displaced in the Agok area, Warrap State and other areas in South Sudan. Food and non-food assistance continued to be provided and services to the displaced population were improved, including with regard to health, education and water, sanitation and hygiene.

15. However, the continuous delay in the movement of food supplies for South Sudan blocked in the Sudan put significant strains on the capacity to deliver food rations to displaced persons. Humanitarian organizations from South Sudan started assisting small groups of returnees north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River in areas south-east of Abyei town with food distribution and supplementary feeding programmes and by providing measles vaccinations, vitamin A and soap to children aged between 6 and 59 months in accessible areas.

16. During the reporting period, there was an increase in the number of people returning to areas north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River: a total of 3,000 returnees were reported by UNISFA in Rumamier, Marial Achak, Leu and Mading Achueng. However, due to the security situation, the humanitarian community was unable to track possible returnees north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River. In addition, the number of people crossing the Banton Bridge on a daily basis to clean the areas of their former houses increased. Currently, approximately 61,500 displaced persons remain south of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River and around Agok and in Warrap State, an estimated 7,300 displaced persons are in Western Bahr el Ghazal State, 26,000 displaced persons are in Warrap State and 5,000 displaced persons are in Northern Western Bahr el Ghazal State.

17. Most United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as non-governmental organizations, were unable to access these areas of return because they had not yet been cleared by the United Nations Mine Action Service for humanitarian access. It is expected that most of the areas of return will be cleared of mines by the end of January 2012, enabling humanitarian access to the affected population. Meanwhile, some humanitarian partners are providing essential health and nutritional support to returnees in Rumamier and Majak, particularly through mobile clinics.

18. An inter-agency mission with participation from the humanitarian country teams from Khartoum and Juba (including representatives from the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme) visited Abyei on 15 and 16 December 2011 and discussed the need to increase humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and returnees, including by allowing all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to return to the Abyei Area.

19. As at 20 January, seven agencies, funds and programmes had re-established a presence in Abyei town. UNDP was in the process of completing the common premises of the United Nations, which will accommodate up to 10 staff members of the United Nations agencies that are supporting displaced persons and returnees. Nine international non-governmental organizations continued their activities in the Abyei Area, focusing on activities south of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River. The humanitarian community continued to carry out livelihood activities for the people of Abyei, in South Sudan, in and around Agok, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene, child protection, education, health and nutrition activities in Agok.

20. As they continued to migrate southward, Misseriya nomads remained north of Abyei town and north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River. FAO and partners started assessing the health, nutrition and animal vaccination needs of the Misseriya community.

V. Protection of civilians

21. During the reporting period there were no significant threats to the civilian population in the Abyei Area. Pending the establishment and effective functioning of the Abyei Area Administration, UNISFA put in place a multifaceted protection response mechanism that included monitoring and early-warning assessments, air and long-range patrols, the promotion of dialogue with the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities and regular interaction with the relevant Government officials on both sides on issues of common interest and concern.

22. To prevent conflict between the two communities on the issue of the migration of Misseriya nomads and the return of displaced persons, the Head of Mission repeatedly engaged with Ngok Dinka traditional chiefs and Misseriya community leaders to secure their commitment and collaboration in implementing the UNISFA mandate, especially with regard to providing security, protecting civilians and ensuring the peaceful and orderly return of displaced persons and migration of nomads. UNISFA developed a conflict mitigation strategy to minimize the risk of confrontation between the two communities during the migration season.

23. A series of consultations was held with both communities to seek their views on the strategy, refine the concept from an operational standpoint and agree on a way forward. Both communities appreciated the proactive efforts of the mission and fine-tuned the proposal with the UNISFA Head of Mission during the course of several meetings held over the past few weeks. A memorandum of understanding containing those commitments and the acceptance by both communities to fully

disarm and rely only on UNISFA for protection is being negotiated with the leaders of the two communities.

24. On 11 January 2012, contrary to the preliminary arrangements made by UNISFA to establish safe passageways for Misseriya migrants to access water and grazing land, a group of nomads carrying guns arrived in Leu, which is predominantly inhabited by Ngok Dinka returnees, with about 6,000 cattle. This unexpected development generated fear and panic in the local community and even led some newly arrived returnees to go back to neighbouring villages. With reinforcements from mission headquarters, the UNISFA company deployed at Leu managed to control the situation and convince the Misseriya migrants, after several hours of discussions, to vacate the village. The nomads left on 12 January for Dokura and Thurpader. Subsequently, a delegation of 20 Ngok Dinka travelled with the Head of Mission to Leu to reassure the community about the determination and readiness of UNISFA to secure the return of both the displaced and the Misseriya nomads. After the incident, the Head of Mission met with Misseriya traditional leaders and secured their commitment to work closely with UNISFA on access to water and grazing land. The Misseriya leadership also agreed to the UNISFA proposal to establish a three-member joint security committee comprising two UNISFA officers (one United Nations military observer and the company commander) and the community leader. It was further agreed that UNISFA would make the arrangements necessary to disarm all nomads and displaced persons carrying weapons and that it would take full responsibility for security. Similar joint security committees are to be established for all areas of migration and return.

25. On 16 January 2012, UNISFA reached an agreement with Ngok Dinka traditional leaders on a two-phased return of displaced persons. The agreement outlined the security conditions (all displaced persons must be unarmed) and the logistical and humanitarian arrangements required to facilitate return and settlement. The first phase of the organized return will commence in Tejalei, Dungop and Leu. Upon successful conclusion of that phase, the second phase of the operation will involve Todach, Alal and surrounding villages.

26. Further to the previous report (S/2011/741), in which I elaborated on my efforts to implement the provision on the monitoring of human rights contained in paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 1990 (2011), the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote to the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to seek support for the establishment of a human rights monitoring presence in Abyei. No response has yet been received from either Government.

VI. Deployment of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

27. As at 23 January, the military component of UNISFA comprised 3,798 of the 4,200 troops that had been authorized. Those forces were deployed to different operating bases to respond to potential threats or destabilizing situations. In Sector North, the second battalion deployed in company strength to operating bases in Todach, Wutgok, Diffra, Um Khariet and Thurpader, and with one platoon in Dungop (see the UNISFA deployment map). In Sector Centre, the first battalion was deployed in company strength to operating bases in Abyei town, Tejalei and Leu, and at platoon level in Noong and Alal. In Sector South, the third battalion was

deployed in company strength to operating bases in Agok, Banton, Marial Achak and Athony, and at platoon level in Majak and Agany Achung. Sector North was reinforced with one tank company and Sector Centre with one field artillery battery. All three battalions were fully operational with the arrival of the contingent-owned equipment in the mission area on 4 January 2012.

28. UNISFA covered most of the Abyei Area and conducted extensive day-and-night patrols, using tanks and armoured personnel carriers to deter any security threats, become more visible and facilitate the safe and smooth return of displaced persons and the migration of Misseriya nomads. During the reporting period, no restriction on freedom of movement was reported and both parties, the armed forces/police of the Sudan and the South Sudan Police Service, were friendly towards UNISFA.

29. To increase its visibility and improve its credibility and deterrence effect, UNISFA aims to have two tactical helicopters deployed from Ethiopia as soon as possible. Negotiations with the Government of Ethiopia regarding the deployment of the helicopters is currently under way.

30. Long delays in the issuance of visas by the Government of the Sudan continue to hamper the deployment of international staff officers. UNISFA is currently supported by two officers from the Office of Military Affairs of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations staff support team and is waiting for the visas of 40 staff officers and 65 military observers. Of those people, 29 staff officers and 20 military observers are ready for deployment to Abyei.

31. The deployment of the 50 international police officers authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 1990 (2011) to support the Abyei Police Service has not progressed due to delays in the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration. However, two police advisers from the standing police capacity have been deployed to UNISFA to support the Head of Mission in planning, interacting with the communities and carrying out community safety initiatives in the Abyei Area.

VII. Mission support

32. The dry season provided better conditions for the implementation of important mission support activities, especially with regard to the third wave of deployment, in December, of Ethiopian troops and contingent-owned equipment, which was conducted by road using civilian buses contracted by the United Nations. That deployment comprised the members of the third infantry battalion and individuals replacing injured and deceased Ethiopian soldiers.

33. The third battalion was deployed from the Abyei Area into company operating bases and temporary operating bases and was accommodated in tents and supported logistically by organic administrative elements and assets of the Mission Support Division. Most UNISFA force elements will remain in tents (except in Abyei town, Diffra and Agok) until selected United Nations engineering specialists are granted visas by the Government of the Sudan and are able to carry out the needed construction work. Meanwhile, a contractor was hired to construct the camps using some of the hardwall accommodation received during the process of liquidating the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS).

34. Spot repairs commenced on priority roads in the area of operations linking villages and humanitarian lines of communications. In addition, minor repair work was carried out to maintain existing camp infrastructure and facilities in Abyei, Diffra, Agok and Kadugli camp. Basic work such as land clearing and levelling will be conducted at each of the new deployment sites intended for use as company operating bases pending the drawing up of formal land use agreements.

35. In November 2011, UNISFA inherited the Kadugli logistic base, its infrastructure and equipment from UNMIS. Following negotiations with the local authorities, the return of the surplus area of the Kadugli base remains to be completed.

36. UNISFA continued to recruit staff for its Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, Uganda, which should reach full strength by the end of the financial year. Dedicated services were provided to the mission while close liaison and coordination activities were undertaken by management at the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe.

37. As at 23 January 2012, only 23 visas had been granted by the Government of the Sudan for civilian staff and contractors supporting the mission, which represents only 15 per cent of the authorized strength for civilian mission support. A total of 33 visa requests for civilian staff (to carry out mission support, security and substantive work) and 71 visa requests for contractors presented to the Government of the Sudan remain outstanding as at 23 January, making it very difficult to provide adequate support and substantive advice to UNISFA, which reached 91 per cent of its authorized troop strength on 19 December 2011. To ensure continued support to the troops, some UNISFA staff were deployed to Wau, in South Sudan, pending receipt of their visas.

38. To enhance cooperation with officials of the Government of the Sudan and to facilitate the handling of all administrative, logistical and legal requirements directly linked to the deployment and operations of UNISFA, the mission established a liaison office in Khartoum headed by a senior military officer. UNISFA finalized a memorandum of understanding with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to leverage local support services for the effective functioning of the liaison office. Arrangements for the establishment of two additional liaison offices, in Juba and Muglad, were under way.

VIII. Financial aspects

39. The General Assembly, by its resolution 66/241, appropriated the amount of $175,500,000 for the maintenance of UNISFA for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNISFA beyond 27 May 2012, the cost of maintaining the mission until 30 June 2012 would be limited to the amount approved by the Assembly.

40. The cost of troops has been reimbursed to the contributing Government for the period up to 31 August 2011, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations

41. The near completion of the deployment of UNISFA troops is a welcome development as it will enhance the mission's operational capabilities to implement its mandate effectively. I therefore wish to express my deep appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia for its prompt action in facilitating the arrival of the third battalion, thus allowing the mission to reconfigure the coverage of its expanded operational area.

42. The recent decision of the Security Council, contained in its resolution 2024 (2011), to assign to UNISFA additional tasks to support the border monitoring mechanism, within authorized capabilities but covering an expanded operational area, poses new challenges for the mission. In this regard, I commend the Head of Mission for the preliminary steps he has taken, in close coordination with the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan, regarding the organizational structure and staffing of the border monitoring mechanism. For the successful implementation of the mission's revised mandate, it is essential that the two parties extend their fullest cooperation to UNISFA, especially by reaching an agreement soon on the maps and geographical references for the safe demilitarized border zone, as well as on a suitable location to host the joint border verification and monitoring mechanism. Similarly, the Government of the Sudan should expedite the issuance of visas for United Nations personnel assigned to UNISFA to perform tasks that are critical for the smooth and effective functioning of the mission, in support of the implementation of the 20 June Agreement, as well as the Agreement on Border Security and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, signed on 29 June 2011, and the Agreement on the Border Monitoring Support Mission between the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan, signed on 30 July 2011 (S/2011/510, annex).

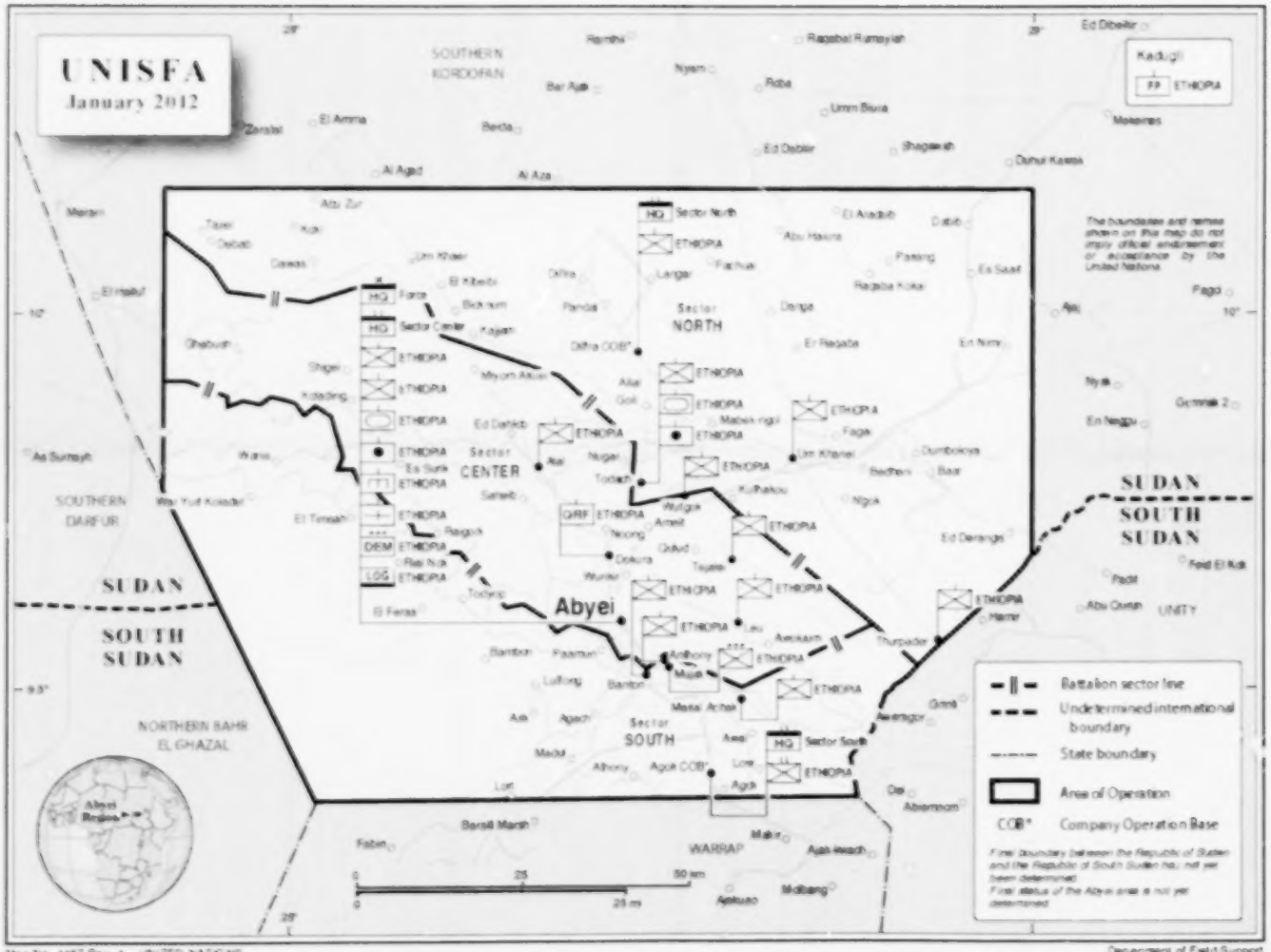
43. The holding, in Abyei on 18 and 19 January 2012, of the third meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee was an encouraging development, as it provided a useful opportunity to develop a better understanding of the main concerns for both sides. The decisions taken at the meeting represent an encouraging step towards the implementation of the 20 June Agreement. The acknowledgement and reaffirmation by the Committee of the urgent need to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected communities in the Abyei Area was reflected in the adoption of a joint appeal for humanitarian assistance on the establishment of a forum for constant interaction between the Committee and the United Nations country teams in the Sudan and South Sudan, as well as an intergovernmental task force on humanitarian assistance.

44. Providing adequate and prompt humanitarian assistance is key to the return of displaced persons and the migration of nomads, as well as to the prevention of clashes between communities. In this connection, I would like to express my appreciation to United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners for their relentless efforts to deliver assistance to all affected communities in a principled manner, abiding by the core principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality. I encourage them to continue to work closely with the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan, as well as with UNISFA, towards improving the provision of assistance to the affected population.

45. I remain deeply concerned about the continued presence of the armed forces and police of the Government of the Sudan and of the South Sudan Police Service in the Abyei Area, which is at variance with earlier commitments made by the two parties in the 20 June Agreement. This remains a major obstacle to the safe return of displaced persons and the migration of nomads. I therefore reiterate my appeal to the two Governments to withdraw their forces from the Abyei Area, to work more closely with the head of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, former President Thabo Mbeki, my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, and the UNISFA Head of Mission, Lieutenant-General Tadesse Werede Tesfay, to find a mutually acceptable solution to all the issues that still stand in the way of the implementation of the agreements of 20 June, 29 June and 30 July.

46. The effective implementation of the various agreements signed by the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan also hinges on building trust and confidence between the two parties. This includes developing good-neighbourly relations. The ongoing fighting in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States cannot serve those purposes. Therefore, I urge both Governments to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from any provocative posture that could trigger direct confrontation.

47. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, for his continued personal engagement and the commitment of his Government to facilitating the work of UNISFA. I also commend the African Union High-level Implementation Panel led by Thabo Mbeki for its relentless efforts to assist the two parties in resolving their outstanding differences. Moreover, I extend my gratitude to Head of Mission, Lieutenant-General Tadesse Werede Tesfay, and the staff of UNISFA for their continued efforts, often under very difficult conditions, to facilitate the peaceful and orderly return of displaced persons and the migration of nomads and create a more secure environment for the resumption of normal civilian activities in the Abyei Area.


UNISFA
January 2012
SOUTHERN KORDOFAN
SOUTHERN DARFUR
NORTHERN BAHR EL GHAZAL
WARRAP
SUDAN
SOUTH SUDAN
SUDAN
SOUTH SUDAN
SUDAN
SOUTH SUDAN
UNITY
Abyei
Abyei Region
Sector NORTH
Sector CENTER
Sector SOUTH
Sector North
Sector Center
Sector South
ETHIOPIA
Battalion sector line
Undetermined international boundary
State boundary
Area of Operation
COB* Company Operation Base
Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Map No. 4487 Rev. 4 UNITED NATIONS
January 2012
Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2012/69

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 January 2012

Original: English

Identical letters dated 27 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In letter after letter, and speech after speech, I have made clear to the Security Council that the rockets flying out of the Gaza Strip everyday are cause for very serious concern. One million civilians in southern Israel live under the constant threat of violence. Rockets fired from Gaza into Israeli cities, schools and homes could ignite an escalation of conflict in our already volatile region. The danger of these attacks is plain for all to see. Yet, some members of the Security Council continue to turn a blind eye.

Just this past Tuesday — while the Security Council was convening for its monthly Middle East debate — terrorists in Gaza fired two rockets into the area of Eshkol. In the past two weeks alone, 13 rockets and mortars have exploded in Israeli communities, including in Be'erot, Kibbutz Zikim and Netiv Ha'asara.

In this week's debate, the Security Council found it appropriate to discuss Israeli settlements for hours on end, but a meaningful discussion of the threat posed by rocket fire from Gaza remained noticeably absent. It is high time that the Security Council said no to terrorism, no to rockets and no to the deliberate targeting of Israeli civilians — clearly, unequivocally and with one voice. Israel expects the Security Council, and all responsible members of the international community, to condemn the relentless rocket fire from Gaza without any further delay.

We also expect President Abbas, and other leaders of the Palestinian Authority, to finally fulfil their fundamental obligation to clearly denounce these acts of terrorism.

Israel holds the Hamas terrorist organization fully responsible for all attacks emanating from Gaza, where it remains in de facto control. Israel has exercised and will continue to exercise its right to self-defence, as appropriate, and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

12-21740 (E) 270112

Please recycle

United Nations A/66/675–S/2012/70

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 January 2012

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 31
Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its fifth session

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005), in which the Peacebuilding Commission was requested to submit an annual report to the Assembly for an annual debate and review. The report will also be submitted to the Council, pursuant to its resolution 1646 (2005), for an annual debate. The report covers the fifth session of the Commission, from 1 January to 31 December 2011.

2. On 29 October 2010, the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/7, and the Security Council, in its resolution 1947 (2010), requested the Commission to reflect in its annual reports the progress made in taking forward the relevant recommendations contained in the co-facilitators' report entitled "Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture" (A/64/868-S/2010/393; the 2010 review). The present report is the first response to that request.

II. Work of the Commission

3. During the reporting period, the Organizational Committee developed a workplan that focused on the implementation of the relevant recommendations from the 2010 review. At the same time, the country configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission continued their support for countries on the agenda by providing political advocacy and support, fostering coherence among key actors and intensifying efforts at resource mobilization. A new country, Guinea, was placed on the agenda on 23 February 2011. The Working Group on Lessons Learned facilitated broader lesson sharing, focusing on critical peacebuilding priorities for the countries on the Commission's agenda. The reporting period also witnessed continued improvement in synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund, which is reflected in greater detail in the relevant country-specific sections (see sect. II.B).

12-21850 (E) 010212

Please recycle

A. Organizational Committee

Implementation of relevant recommendations from the 2010 review

4. The Organizational Committee approved, on 25 January, the Chair's road map for actions in 2011. The road map is considered a living document which spells out the Commission's plan to take forward in 2011 the relevant recommendations from the 2010 review. It prioritized four areas, namely: (a) support for national capacity development; (b) resource mobilization; (c) alignment of key actors behind common peacebuilding objectives; and (d) adoption of flexible and adaptable instruments of engagement.

5. The fourth annual informal retreat at the ambassadorial level, which took place on 30 March 2011, provided an early opportunity for the Committee to address two of the priority areas identified by the road map, the alignment of key actors and national capacity development. The retreat provided a platform for member States to exchange views on, draw attention to and encourage actions by key United Nations operational actors in relation to those priorities. In particular, they discussed ways in which the Commission could leverage its political weight and potential convening power as it exercises its mandate to align relevant actors behind a common vision for peacebuilding. The participants also reflected on common challenges to national capacity development in post-conflict settings and the role that the Commission should play in helping the countries on its agenda to meet those challenges.

6. Building on the initial discussions at the retreat, the Peacebuilding Support Office led a process within the Senior Peacebuilding Group culminating in a document that presented the United Nations system views on the implementation of the road map. Drawing on those early processes, the Committee was able to set in motion policy-level and thematic discussions relating to the priorities identified in the road map, and initiate important outreach activities through its Chairperson and the Chairs of the Commission's configurations. Those discussions and activities were designed to support the work of the country configurations. The remainder of section I describes the specific actions that the Committee has taken in implementation of the road map. An analytical account of progress made and outstanding challenges are outlined in section III of the report.

Practical approaches to resource mobilization

7. On 1 June, the Chair of the Working Group on Lessons Learned briefed an informal meeting of the Committee on a recently convened discussion on practical approaches to resource mobilization. The discussion confirmed and highlighted both the potential and the limitations of the Commission's role in resource mobilization. The Chairs of the country configurations provided an overview of the progress made and challenges faced in resource mobilization for the countries on the agenda. The Committee's discussion reflected an evolving and practical understanding that the Commission's role in undertaking resource mobilization for the countries on its agenda would include assistance rendered for prioritization; advocacy and political accompaniment; policy formulation; and coordination of efforts and facilitating partnerships with international financial and regional institutions, as well as with the private sector.

Focus on national capacity development

Review of civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict

8. As part of the focus on supporting national capacity development, the Committee continued to engage in review of civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict. Building on the contributions it made to the work of the Senior Advisory Group during the previous reporting period (see A/65/701-S/2011/41), the Committee initiated the fifth session by interacting with a member of the Advisory Group and the Director of the review team in the Secretariat. During that interaction, the Committee was apprised of the recommendations contained in the independent report of the Senior Advisory Group (A/65/747-S/2011/85, annex II). Several members reiterated the importance of the recommendations, which would help to improve the United Nations contribution to strengthening national capacities for peacebuilding. The member of the Advisory Group emphasized that the Commission would be a particularly appropriate forum for taking forward a number of recommendations in view of its mandate to work across organizational boundaries and address the entire continuum of peacebuilding activities.

9. The Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Field Support briefed the Committee on 22 July on the process of taking forward the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict (A/66/311-S/2011/527). She pointed out that preliminary United Nations efforts in South Sudan were already highlighting the mismatch between high popular expectations of delivering results and the weak absorption capacity of the Government. South Sudan was also an example in which building capacity could benefit from joint projects and partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations. Some members of the Committee expressed interest in at least one of the countries on the agenda becoming a pilot for the implementation of partnership arrangements that draw on the capacities from the global South, and in the United Nations exploring agile and predictable funding for those arrangements.

System-wide developments

10. On 22 June, the Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was invited to brief the Committee on an evolving process led by UNDP aimed at strengthening the United Nations system-wide approach to capacity development for peacebuilding. The Director underlined the growing consensus that capacity development for peacebuilding should encompass a national vision and inclusive ownership of the peacebuilding processes, clarity of priorities and realistic sequencing of activities. Members of the Committee stressed the need for a United Nations system-wide approach to capacity development for peacebuilding. Such an approach would give balanced attention to strengthening security and economic capacities in countries emerging from conflict, and to the capacity of the State to deliver quick dividends while building longer-term institutional capacity.

Partnership, outreach and experience-sharing

11. Building on the recommendations made and the momentum generated by the 2010 review, the Chairperson and the Chairs of the configurations undertook a number of activities on behalf of the members of the Organizational Committee and the wider membership of the Commission. Those activities were aimed either at

broadening the base of support of Member States and regional groupings for the country-specific work of the Commission, or at strengthening partnerships with key actors at Headquarters and in the field. Some of the activities described below could also be viewed in the context of the Commission's key functions, such as resource mobilization and promoting coherence.

Interaction with the World Bank

12. On 29 April, the Committee hosted the launching of the World Bank's *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security and Development*,[1] bringing together members of the World Bank Board of Directors and of the Commission, as well as senior officials from the main operational United Nations entities. The event offered an opportunity to exchange views on the following: the overarching challenges identified in the *Report*; substantive areas requiring greater attention by the World Bank and other United Nations entities; opportunities for the organizations to improve their institutional response in post-conflict settings; and the support that is required from the international donor community. Concrete suggestions to take forward the recommendations of the *Report*, with support from the United Nations system, included: (a) the need to jointly address country-specific implications in the Commission's country configurations; (b) combined or closely coordinated programming between the World Bank and other entities of the United Nations system, and other national and international actors, especially where issues of security, justice and development intersect; (c) linking the operationalization of relevant recommendations contained in the 2011 *Report* to that of relevant recommendations from the review of civilian capacity (A/65/747-S/2011/85); and (d) the need to develop impact measurement tools and indicators that can inform the workplans of the World Bank and other United Nations entities.

Interaction with political and regional groupings

13. The Chairperson interacted with the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of African States on 20 April and 26 May, respectively. During the interactions, the Chairperson presented the Commission's plans to take forward the recommendations of the 2010 review and advocated for more proactive engagement by the members of the Coordinating Bureau and the Group of African States in support of the Commission's work. The feedback from the membership of both groupings was positive, showing the scope of broad political support for the Commission, and at the same time confirming the need for more regular and targeted outreach to the broader membership in order for the political support to further translate into practical assistance to the countries on the Commission's agenda.

High-level Meeting on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: the experience of Rwanda

14. The Government of Rwanda, in its capacity as the Chair of the Commission and in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Peacebuilding Support Office, convened in Kigali on 8 and 9 November a high-level meeting on post-conflict peacebuilding: peace and State-building: the Rwandan experience. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, opened the meeting, with the participation of the President of Burundi, the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire and

[1] Washington, D.C., International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/World Bank, 2011.

other high-level officials from the countries on the Commission's agenda. Representatives from Haiti and Timor-Leste, senior officials from the African Union and the World Bank, and Chairs of the Commission's configurations also participated in the meeting.

15. The event represented an innovative effort by the Commission to serve as a platform for promoting experience-sharing between countries that have undergone peacebuilding and State-building processes and those who are engaged in or embarking on similar processes. Frank and focused discussion took place on critical peacebuilding challenges, such as inclusive ownership and leadership; innovative approaches to nation-building and socio-economic development; and the strategic use of aid. The discussions were designed to allow for the participating countries to gain first-hand insights into Rwanda's experience in managing a complex post-conflict landscape focused on State- and institution-building.

16. The recommendations from the event included a call on the Commission to reflect on lessons learned from the Rwandan experience, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of the instruments of engagement with the countries to be placed on its agenda. Another recommendation was that the Commission build on existing mechanisms within the United Nations system to facilitate lesson-sharing between countries that have experience in peacebuilding and State-building and those that are about to undertake such processes. In addition, African countries represented at the Conference called for sustainable mechanisms to drive a more proactive African agenda of sharing lessons and best practices in peacebuilding and nation-building, for the benefit of African countries that have undergone conflict.

17. Going forward, the Commission will actively follow up on the report of the Secretary-General on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict (A/66/311-S/2011/527) and engage with the African solidarity initiative of the African Union.

Establishing a partnership with the African Development Bank

18. The Chairs of the configurations visited the temporary headquarters of the African Development Bank in Tunis on 11 November. The visit was the first of its kind since the establishment of the Commission. A key objective of the visit was to deepen the collaboration between the Commission and AfDB and explore how both institutions could jointly support peacebuilding priorities in African countries on the Commission's agenda. The visit culminated in minutes of consultation, which spell out areas of potential collaboration between the two institutions. These include resource mobilization and advocacy; policy dialogue on critical peacebuilding issues; working together on youth employment; and underlining complementarity of funding between the Peacebuilding Fund and AfDB. In follow up to the outcome of the visit, the Peacebuilding Support Office is developing a workplan with AfDB to take forward each of the above-mentioned areas of collaboration.

Promoting women's role and participation in peacebuilding

19. The Committee jointly organized a meeting with the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on 18 November. The main objectives were to draw attention to the immediate and long-term needs of women and their role in economic recovery for sustainable peacebuilding; to share good practices on integrating women into

employment and economic recovery initiatives; and to generate common thinking to promote coordination and coherence in the work of the United Nations system and other partners. The meeting highlighted the need for the Commission and UN-Women to jointly promote a 15 per cent spending threshold for United Nations projects that target women's needs and empowerment; to convene country-specific discussions on the progress and challenges of integrating women into peacebuilding; and to activate the dialogue between country configurations and UN-Women on country priorities for women's participation in peacebuilding.

Thematic discussion: contribution of peacekeepers to early peacebuilding

20. In its resolution 65/290, the General Assembly requested that the Secretary-General consult closely, throughout the process of the preparation of the strategy for early peacebuilding, with Member States, the Commission, the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and all relevant Secretariat entities. Pursuant to that request, on 25 October, the Committee invited the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to conduct a briefing on the jointly and recently developed strategy on the contribution of peacekeepers to early peacebuilding. The briefing was envisaged as part of the ongoing reflection within the Commission on the synergy between peacekeeping and peacebuilding in the field, an issue highlighted in the 2010 review in the context of the relationship between the Commission, the General Assembly and the Security Council.

21. The representative of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations noted that the strategy identifies activities that advance the peace process and political objectives of the mission and activities that aim to consolidate the peace process by laying the foundations for longer-term institution-building. The Department also emphasized that the strategy represents a checklist to be followed to ensure that critical peacebuilding elements are addressed and that the Commission's role becomes crucial as the peacekeeping missions prepare for transition from one form of political and operational engagement to another, as in the case of Liberia.

22. Committee members emphasized the need for the process of developing the strategy to take into consideration the views of troop-contributing countries and for further discussions with member States at the meetings of the Commission, as well as at the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. Members of the Organizational Committee stressed that the strategy would be assessed by its practical contribution to a more effective and successful performance of critical peacebuilding tasks by peacekeeping missions. Members also placed particular emphasis on the need for peacekeeping missions to draw on the capacity and expertise of the United Nations country teams in the context of a more effective integration of efforts to support peacebuilding in the field, while ensuring that peacebuilding prioritization must continue to be a nationally owned process and demand-driven. In that respect, a representative of UNDP who participated in the discussion noted that development actors needed to be engaged early in designing the peacekeeping missions' peacebuilding activities.

Interaction with the principal organs of the United Nations system

23. Interaction with the General Assembly has been reflected through the Chairperson's briefing to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of the General Assembly on 25 February. During the briefing, the Chairperson presented the Commission's perspectives on the complementarity between peacekeeping and peacebuilding with a view to informing the Committee's development of the corresponding section of its annual report. In this regard, he pointed out that while integrated peacekeeping missions have contributed to meeting various peacebuilding priorities, there is a need to improve the manner in which security and development actors in the field plan and carry out their respective tasks. There is also a need for more clarity in regard to roles and responsibilities.

24. The relationship with the Security Council has continued to develop during the reporting period. In the context of the midyear discussion of the Chairperson's progress report on the implementation of the road map, members of the Committee who are also members of the Security Council outlined areas where progress has been made, including the following: the introduction of informal interaction between the Council, the Chairs of the country configurations and the representatives of the countries on the agenda when the mandate of the corresponding peacekeeping or political mission is being reformulated; and the increasing reference in relevant statements by the President of the Council to the work of the Commission and the need to actively draw on its advice. The Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairs of the country configurations were also invited to address relevant meetings of the Council and conduct country-specific briefings, providing an opportunity to highlight the potential for strengthening the Commission's advisory role to the Council. The participation of permanent members in the Commission's field visits to the Central African Republic and Liberia represented another important development during the reporting period aimed at strengthening the links between the Council and the Commission. However, there is growing recognition that additional efforts are needed on both sides to strengthen the relationship, which is underscored in the "Conclusions" section of the report (see para. 109).

25. The Commission and the Economic and Social Council organized an informal joint event on 13 June, on the theme "Promoting durable peace and sustainable development in the Sudan and South Sudan". The event took place ahead of the formal declaration of independence of South Sudan and aimed at drawing international attention to the development and State-building priorities of the nascent country. The event was inaugurated by the Vice-President and Finance Minister of the Government of Southern Sudan, who underlined the need for demand-driven, coordinated, coherent and integrated support by the United Nations system. Subsequently, on 22 July, the Chairperson made his annual informal briefing to the substantive session of the Council, at which he underscored that the Commission would continue to join voices with the Council to ensure that institutional and bilateral actors pay sufficient attention to generating early and sustainable socio-economic dividends as part of any long-term peacebuilding engagement in the countries emerging from conflict.

B. Country configurations

1. Burundi

26. The review of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi: fifth progress report (PBC/5/BDI/3; fifth review) provided an opportunity for the Commission to renew its engagement with the Government and key stakeholders with respect to the peacebuilding agenda. The review resulted in the outcome document (PBC/5/BDI/2), which was adopted on 26 April and constituted the revised instrument of engagement between the Commission and the Government of Burundi. Taking into account the completion of the 2010 elections, the scope of the engagement was narrowed to the following tasks: (a) consolidation of the culture of democracy and dialogue; (b) good governance, human rights and the rule of law (fight against corruption, strengthening of the human rights instruments, transitional justice and reconciliation); (c) socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable groups; (d) the second poverty reduction strategy paper (peacebuilding issues, resource mobilization); and (e) regional integration. The engagement was also marked by close consultations with regard to the renewal allocation from the Peacebuilding Fund.

27. To provide more frequent opportunities to engage with Burundi, the Chair convenes an open-ended steering group of interested members on a regular basis. The steering group exchanges views with the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) and is involved in the implementation of tasks at hand.

Political advocacy and support

28. The Chair of the configuration visited Burundi and the East African region from 14 to 22 February and from 31 October to 5 November to pursue engagement with the Government and national, regional and international stakeholders and to discuss further the Commission's priorities in the peacebuilding phase following the 2010 elections. Throughout the visits and meetings of the configuration, the Chair and members of the configuration highlighted the most recent progress achieved by Burundi as a way to advocate for further support and sustain the interest of the international community. Progress was made in a number of areas, including the following: (a) performance contracts that the President signs with members of his Government as a new tool to strengthen accountability; (b) the President's zero tolerance policy against corruption, together with the actions already taken to address cases of corruption and eradicate the culture of corruption; (c) the creation of the office and the appointment of the Ombudsman and the allocation of resources for the office's work; (d) the creation of the Independent National Human Rights Commission and the commitment for its substantial financing in 2012; and (e) the publication of the report of the national consultations on the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms and the report of the technical commission, including the first draft of the law establishing the truth and reconciliation committee.

29. The report on the fifth review, which was prepared under the leadership of the Government of Burundi, together with the visits and meetings of the configuration were used both to highlight progress and to point to remaining economic and political challenges that require the attention of the Government and the support of its partners. Those challenges include the significant political rifts in the country,

which manifest themselves through attacks against members of the opposition. The apparent unwillingness of the opposition to engage in solution-oriented political work also represents an obstacle to national dialogue. In addition, the need to combat poverty and create job opportunities, especially for the youth and the groups affected by the conflict, are equally viewed as key elements for creating sustainable stability and national cohesion.

Resource mobilization

30. **Poverty reduction strategy paper**. During the February visit to Bujumbura and later to the East African Community in Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, it was suggested that the Chair would co-host a donor event once the second poverty reduction strategy paper had been completed. During the Chair's visit in November, the idea was discussed further, and the African Development Bank was identified as a potential co-sponsor of the donor conference. The donor event is expected to take place after the completion of the second poverty reduction strategy paper.

31. **Mobilization of private investment**. Following the request reiterated by the President of Burundi for assistance in attracting private investment, the Commission has continued to explore ways to respond to that request. One possible way, identified and discussed with the Government of Burundi during the visits of February and November, would be to organize a high-level event on private investment in 2012 after the donor conference. During the Chair's visit to AfDB in November (see para. 18), the Bank expressed interest in partnering with the Commission in organizing such an event during the second half of 2012. In other matters, the Chair was closely consulted in the preparation for the participation of Burundi in the investors' forum that took place on the margins of the fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in May 2011 in Istanbul, during which the Global Compact attracted a substantial number of potential private investors.

32. **Socio-economic reintegration**. Reflecting the prioritization in the revised instrument of engagement of the Commission, the Burundi Joint Steering Committee for peacebuilding identified reintegration as the single issue for a Peacebuilding Fund renewal tranche. The Fund provided $9.2 million out of the $24 million required to cover five priority provinces. During and following his visit in November, the Chair continued to advocate on behalf of the Commission with Burundi's partners to mobilize the additional funding required by the programme.

Fostering coherence

33. During his visit in February, the Chair attended the meeting of the Political Forum of the Partners Coordination Group, at which the participants discussed the fifth review. The Chair suggested that the recommendations of the fifth review could represent a peacebuilding pillar in the second poverty reduction strategy paper. It was then agreed that the Commission would use the reporting and review mechanisms of that paper to monitor and sustain attention on peacebuilding issues.

34. The Chair has also advocated for the use of the existing coordination mechanisms under the Partners Coordination Group, such as the Strategic Forum and the Political Forum, as key policy dialogue and coordination mechanisms

between the Government of Burundi and its partners to validate the second poverty reduction strategy paper at the country level.

35. At the meeting of the Council on 7 December, the Chair made a statement on the situation in Burundi, in which he informed the Council that reflection on transitioning Burundi out of the present form of engagement with the Commission had started.

36. Based on the outcome document of 26 April, the configuration, in coordination with the Government of Burundi, will focus on two priorities in the upcoming year. The first concerns the further implementation of the socio-economic reintegration proposal put forward by the Government and BNUB. It is the intention of the Chair to foster understanding of the selected approach and — together with the Government of Burundi — to advocate for addressing the resource gap of $14 million. The second priority concerns the implementation of the second poverty reduction strategy paper, which is expected to be finalized early in 2012. The Chair will propose to the Burundi configuration that it assist in organizing and possibly co-host a donor event in conjunction with a Consultative Group meeting expected to take place in the first half of the year. In addition, the review of the April 2011 outcome document (see para. 26) in spring 2012 will be an occasion to determine how the Commission can best continue to contribute to supporting Burundi's peacebuilding priorities.

2. Sierra Leone

37. During the reporting period, the Commission confirmed its engagement with Sierra Leone on the basis of the peacebuilding elements of the Agenda for Change of the Government of Sierra Leone, namely: good governance and the rule of law; youth employment; and combating drug trafficking, with gender and regional perspectives as cross-cutting issues (PBC/3/SLE/6). Subsequently, the configuration decided to focus its engagement in the area of governance on support for national actors to help them to prepare the country to hold free and fair elections, which are now scheduled for 17 November 2012 (PBC/4/SLE/3). The configuration has opted for a lighter form of engagement characterized by a smaller number of meetings with higher substantive and output-oriented content.

Political advocacy and support

38. The Sierra Leone configuration has remained a forum for discussing the major political and development issues, whose resolution is essential to the strengthening of the country's peace consolidation process. During the reporting period, the focus of the configuration was on the imperative for all national actors to work towards free, fair and peaceful elections that would affirm the legitimacy of the next government. The configuration has clearly conveyed to all relevant actors in Sierra Leone the keen interest of the international community in seeing the peacebuilding process in Sierra Leone succeed, including by overcoming the important test of the 2012 elections. In that regard, the Commission has consistently impressed upon the political parties the importance of inter-party dialogue and dialogue with the independent institutions mandated to prepare the elections, notably the National Electoral Commission, in order to bridge disagreements and clarify the rules of engagement well ahead of the elections. The message was conveyed in the clearest terms by a high-level delegation from the Commission when it visited Sierra Leone

in May 2011. The Peacebuilding Fund's renewal tranche, programmed in late 2010, has also reinforced the Commission's focus in this direction. The bulk of the allocation from the Fund has been invested in innovative programmes aimed at building the capacity of influential non-State actors, political parties, religious and traditional leaders, academia and civil society, to advocate for free, fair and peaceful elections and to prevent and resolve election-related violence that may emerge during the election process.

39. In March, the Commission hosted the All Political Parties Women's Association and provided an international platform for the Association to advocate for increasing women's participation in politics in leadership positions. Through that exposure, the Association has gained the support of the international community for its cause.

Resource mobilization

40. The engagement of the Commission has resulted in sustained and heightened international attention being devoted to Sierra Leone and has helped in coordinating donor support. Several donors have renewed or demonstrated their interest in Sierra Leone. The Commission has used all available opportunities to advocate for funding the United Nations Joint Vision. In January, the Commission provided its members with information on the financial needs to implement the Joint Vision. As a result, a number of members of the Commission have contributed financially, including Australia ($1,000,000), Canada ($500,000), Italy ($685,000) and the United States ($200,000). In addition, the midterm review of the United Nations Joint Vision found that the plan had raised the profile of the United Nations in Sierra Leone and helped agencies' bilateral fund-raising. Contributions indirectly derived from the success of the Commission in keeping the attention of the international community on Sierra Leone well after the end of the conflict remain difficult to assess. Sierra Leone has enjoyed a level of financial support above the average level of assistance to post-conflict countries.

41. To date, Sierra Leone has received nearly $45 million from the Peacebuilding Fund. At the end of 2010, a renewal tranche was allocated, followed in 2011 by an additional $1.7 million to follow up on activities identified by an independent evaluation. The objective of the investment by the Fund, consistent with the principle of national ownership, is to leave behind a stronger and better organized civil society that will contribute to the peaceful development of Sierra Leone well beyond the coming electoral cycle.

Fostering coherence

42. The Commission's engagement in Sierra Leone has been instrumental in fostering United Nations integration on the ground by supporting the integration of the political mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) with the development mandates of the United Nations agencies; strengthening the role of the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General; and endorsing United Nations Joint Vision.

43. With the alignment of its engagement with the Agenda for Change, the Commission has de facto elevated the Agenda, making it the central peace and development framework of the international community. The United Nations system, in particular the World Bank, the African Development Bank and other

international partners have organized their programmes in line with the Agenda and coordinated their activities to avoid any duplication.

44. Notably, with the political support provided by the Commission, the United Nations succeeded in providing integrated and coordinated support to the country through the Joint Vision. The Joint Vision reflects the intention of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to work together towards a set of key objectives in peace and security, humanitarian and development areas. The Joint Vision constitutes one of the most successful examples of a fully integrated and coordinated United Nations on the ground.

45. The Commission will work in close partnership with the Government of Sierra Leone, the National Electoral Commission, the Political Parties Registration Commission, the United Nations system and the rest of the international community to address emerging needs related to the electoral process and help to ensure free, fair, peaceful and, importantly, uncontested elections. Beyond that primary focus, the Commission will also continue to support and monitor progress with respect to youth employment and empowerment, drug trafficking and organized crime, and good governance and the rule of law. To that end, the Chair intends to visit Sierra Leone in January 2012, and the Commission will take stock of peace consolidation by considering the second annual joint progress report on the Agenda for Change in the first quarter of 2012. The Chair also plans to continue working closely with the other West African configurations of the Commission to develop a regional approach to drug trafficking and organized crime, particularly by travelling to Abuja in 2012 to explore closer cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and supporting implementation of the West Africa Coast Initiative.

3. Guinea-Bissau

46. The Commission continued addressing key peacebuilding priorities, with particular focus on supporting government efforts aimed at the full implementation of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau.

Political advocacy and support

47. The period under review was marked by continuous political stability in Guinea-Bissau. The current Government has been the most stable and longest lasting since 1997. On the economic side, the Government's achievements in terms of macroeconomic management, fiscal discipline and infrastructure development have induced an important virtuous circle in spite of the difficult global economic environment.

48. Conscious that stability is still fragile, however, the Commission engaged with the Government in a dialogue aimed at consolidating further the foundations for sustainable peace. The Guinea-Bissau configuration has encouraged the Government to adopt the necessary measures to launch a pension fund for the armed forces and security forces personnel aimed at accelerating the process of security sector reform. The Government demonstrated its commitment to that process by endorsing the joint Economic Community of West African States/Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) road map on security sector reform in March, by creating a task force to oversee its implementation. Furthermore, the Government of Guinea-Bissau has established the Follow-up Committee of the Pension Fund,

revamped the security sector reform National Steering Committee, and drafted a tripartite memorandum of understanding for the implementation of the road map, which is being negotiated with CPLP and ECOWAS. The Government also deposited, on 2 September, a total of $200,000 as the first tranche of its initial contribution to the pension fund, and has indicated that it is considering depositing an additional contribution of $300,000 by the end of 2011.

49. The configuration has also addressed other peacebuilding priorities, such as combating drug trafficking and organized crime, and consolidating the rule of law. In that regard, and with a view to garnering further support and encouraging the adoption of a regional approach, the Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone configurations jointly convened a meeting to discuss the issue of transnational crime and drug trafficking, and their impact on peacebuilding in the four countries (see sect. II.C). It is also worth mentioning that the Government of Guinea-Bissau has made important progress in this area. A transnational crime unit, within the West Africa Coast Initiative, was set up in Bissau with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The management board of the unit is headed by the Director of the Judiciary Police and has been meeting regularly. INTERPOL has set up an office in Bissau. Moreover, in June 2011 the Government adopted an operational plan to combat drug trafficking and is seeking to strengthen its bilateral cooperation with the United States of America to fight this scourge (extension of the United States Africa Command operations to Guinea-Bissau).

50. The Chair visited the country from 1 to 3 September 2011. She met with Carlos Gomes Júnior, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, and with the Minister for Foreign Affairs; the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Integration; the Minister of Defence; and the Minister of Justice, as well as with the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Social Communication and Parliamentary Affairs. The Chair subsequently met with representatives of civil society, the diplomatic corps, the heads of United Nations agencies and with the press. The urgency of focusing on security sector reform was widely recognized by all interlocutors during the visit. To that end, the launching of a pension fund for the armed forces and security forces personnel to be demobilized is regarded as a crucial step that will enable the reform to proceed. During her visit, the Chair felt that the Government of Guinea-Bissau was fully committed to the reform and that there is political will to move forward on it.

51. To mobilize support for the launching of the pension fund, the Government of Guinea-Bissau requested the assistance of the Commission in organizing a high-level event on security sector reform. Upon the Chair's return from her visit to Guinea-Bissau, she convened a meeting of the configuration on 9 September to share the findings of her trip and to discuss the way forward with the members of the configuration. During the discussions at the meeting, it was felt that the Commission could contribute to the preparation of the high-level event by presenting some elements for the Government's consideration. The configuration then prepared a list of relevant elements. During a meeting of the configuration on 4 November, the Minister for Economy, Planning and Regional Integration of Guinea-Bissau, Maria Helena Nosolini Embaló, made a presentation sharing the responses to the list of elements with the members of the configuration.

52. Despite the difficult global environment and the internal political challenges, international financial institutions have acknowledged the Government's progress in

financial and economic reforms. In that regard, at the meeting of the configuration on 4 November, a representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) highlighted the progress made so far by the Government in terms of macroeconomic management, especially regarding fiscal revenue collection. The IMF representative argued that, thanks to an exceptional cashew-nut harvest combined with enhanced fiscal discipline, the Government was able, for the very first time, to cover its own public expenditure (current spending). Any future financial contribution, therefore, would directly translate into developmental and investment support.

Resource mobilization

53. During the reporting period, the configuration's resource mobilization efforts focused on fast-tracking crucial parts of the security sector reform, notably the launching of the pension fund for armed forces and security forces personnel.

54. On 28 June 2011, the Secretary-General allocated up to $16.8 million from the Peacebuilding Fund to the implementation of the peacebuilding priority plan. Subsequently, the Peacebuilding Joint Steering Committee approved all four draft projects jointly designed by the Government and the United Nations country team to implement the plan. The projects focus on supporting security sector reform, promoting job creation as a peace dividend for youth and women, and boosting political dialogue and national reconciliation.

55. In an effort to work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, on 5 July the Government of Guinea-Bissau finalized and endorsed the second poverty reduction strategy paper, which covers the period 2011-2015. The Government intends to organize a donor round table in the first quarter of 2012, with the financial support of the African Development Bank.

Fostering coherence

56. The Guinea-Bissau configuration, which includes all key stakeholders, pursued a dynamic and concrete dialogue among ECOWAS, CPLP, the European Union and the United Nations country team, with a view to promoting conceptual and programmatic alignment.

57. Looking ahead, the configuration is engaged in preparations for a high-level event on security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau. The meeting is expected to be held in New York in early 2012. The configuration may also consider, upon request, assisting the Government in organizing a donor round table aimed at facilitating resource mobilization to fund the second poverty reduction strategy paper.

4. Central African Republic

58. The reporting period was marked by three important events in the Central African Republic and its engagement with the Commission: (a) the holding of presidential and legislative elections in January, March and September 2011; (b) the Brussels partners' round table in June 2011; and (c) the finalization of the second review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic and the adoption of its conclusions and recommendations in November 2011. The engagement of the Commission was further marked by a number of visits and activities undertaken by the configuration and its Chair, including the Commission's field mission in October 2011, which was joined by the management

of the Peacebuilding Fund to ensure continuous improvement of the Fund's synergy with the Commission's priorities of engagement.

Political advocacy and support

59. The field visits of the Chair and the configuration remain an important tool for maintaining the dialogue with national counterparts, including civil society, and the Joint Steering Committee for the Peacebuilding Fund. The visits also provide an opportunity to interact with representatives of the international community based in the country in an effort to strengthen coordination among all actors.

60. Shortly after its field visit, the configuration adopted, on 16 November 2011, the conclusions and recommendations of the second review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic (PBC/5/CAF/3). In addition to assessing overall progress in the peacebuilding process as well as the progress in the implementation of commitments made by Government, civil society and the Commission, the review provides a set of conclusions and recommendations for the way forward, addressed to the various stakeholders in the country's peacebuilding process. The current Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding (PBC/3/CAF/7) in the Central African Republic expires at the end of 2011; consequently, the configuration has initiated a process to define its future engagement in the country, firmly based on the second poverty reduction strategy paper, in accordance with the wish of the Government.

61. In the second half of 2010, the Commission focused much of its attention on the country's electoral process, and sustained its political accompaniment, albeit in a politically sensitive context. The first round of presidential and legislative elections was held on 23 January 2011, followed by a second round of the legislative elections on 27 March. A third round was organized in September following the ruling of the Constitutional Court on the appeals.

62. After the conclusion of the electoral process, the Commission turned its attention to accompanying the national authorities in the final stages of the preparation of the country's second poverty reduction strategy paper. The Commission's efforts focused on ensuring that the paper could provide a sound basis for the future engagement of the Commission with the country, by making sure the paper incorporated the Commission's priorities for peacebuilding and had an overall peacebuilding-sensitive approach. At the partners' round table in Brussels, international partners provided positive feedback on the final draft presented, and stressed the importance of further prioritizing the multiplicity of goals it contained.

63. In the second half of 2011, the Commission also focused on other ongoing processes in the Central African Republic, in particular the issue of the narrowed political space in the country, the continued absence of a national security sector reform strategy, and the lack of a fully developed and funded reintegration component for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. The Commission also addressed the status of the development hub project led by the European Union.

64. In his analysis of peacebuilding challenges in the Central African Republic, which he periodically shared with the Security Council, the Chair stressed the aforementioned issues as well as the importance of the regional dimension of the situation in the country and the impact of regional dynamics on the country.

Resource mobilization

65. From 16 to 17 June 2011, the Government of Belgium hosted a partners' round table for the Central African Republic in Brussels. The event, organized by the Government of the Central African Republic with the assistance of the Peacebuilding Support Office, UNDP, AfDB and the World Bank, afforded the opportunity to the Government to present an advanced draft of its second poverty reduction paper.

66. The partners' round table, held in Brussels in June, was the highlight of the Commission's resource mobilization efforts for 2011. Its success lay in the number (over 160) and diversity of participants in the event, ranging from Governments, regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions to international non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations. The advocacy and sensitization work of the Commission, and particularly of the Chair of the configuration in the months leading up to the holding of the event, were critical in bringing to the table a wide range of existing and potential donors and partners.

67. Owing to the focus early in the year on the electoral process in the country, and in the light of the funding shortfall for that process, through targeted resource mobilization, the Commission and other partners were able to fill the $7.5 million funding gap.

68. Building on measures taken by the Government in June to advance the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) prepared in November a proposal for the Immediate Response Facility of the Peacebuilding Fund to further support the process. The proposal aims to build capacity within the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Steering Committee, and offer a quick start for reinsertion activities for ex-combatants.

69. The Chair and the Commission maintained a sustained engagement with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, following up on the high-level event co-organized in 2010 on the margins of the United Nations summit on the Millennium Development Goals.

70. As a result of his outreach activities, the Chair facilitated the donation of 300 mosquito nets from Sumitomo Chemical to the Ngaraba central prison in Bangui. The remaining nets were installed in the women's prison of Bangui.

Fostering coherence

71. The Central African Republic configuration pursued its efforts to bring together all relevant partners in support of the country. The results of those efforts were visible at the Brussels partners' round table in June, which was attended by a substantial number and variety of partners (see para. 66).

72. The Chair also continued his regular contacts within the United Nations system, including with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Field Support, aimed at raising their awareness of the situation in the Central African Republic, and advocating that it be considered a priority country within

their respective mandates relating to the protection of children in armed conflict, sexual violence in conflict and civilian capacity. He also brought together the Civilian Capacities Team of the Department of Field Support, the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to the United Nations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and the Peacebuilding Support Office to discuss capacity-building activities in the country.

73. The Chair introduced the practice of participating at the directors' level in select meetings of the Integrated Task Force for the Central African Republic, including two such meetings relating to his visits to the country, which afforded the opportunity to coordinate messages between the visiting delegation and the United Nations presence at the country level. The practice proved to be particularly useful in allowing coordination between actors in the field and at Headquarters.

74. The existing Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic expires at the end of 2011. A new instrument for the Commission's engagement is expected to be adopted early in 2012 to support the peacebuilding priorities of the country's second poverty reduction strategy paper. In the interim, the Commission will focus on the following: (a) supporting the successful completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, in particular through resource mobilization for the reintegration strategy; (b) supporting the Government's efforts to mobilize support for its second poverty reduction strategy paper, in follow-up to the partners' round table; and (c) supporting capacity-building efforts, with a special focus on reconciliation and mediation structures at the local level and governance in the natural resources sector.

5. Liberia

75. In its first year of engagement with Liberia, the Commission drew on a range of expertise to become conversant with the conflict, history and culture of the country as well as the technical aspects of the three peacebuilding priorities: rule of law, security sector reform and national reconciliation. Those insights, in addition to three missions undertaken by the Chair and one by the configuration, including visits to outlying counties, enabled the Commission to form independent recommendations on peacebuilding challenges in Liberia. The configuration was also closely engaged in the preparation of an expanded priority plan for peacebuilding in Liberia totalling $80 million for three years, for which the Peacebuilding Fund has allocated a catalytic contribution of $20 million (see para. 78).

Political advocacy and support

76. With a voice that has cohered with the international community, the Commission substantively engaged and credibly advocated with senior government officials on sensitive but essential challenges to peacebuilding. Crucial among those interactions have been repeated meetings with the Chief Justice, in which the Commission stressed the necessity of accountability and oversight. With legislators, including the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Commission underlined the need for priority attention to critical pieces of pending legislation (omnibus security act and jury law) and the importance of parliamentary civilian oversight of

armed security forces. A key success was the President's agreement for a national strategy to be developed on national reconciliation.

77. In its relationship with the Security Council, the Commission has focused its analysis on the transition of security responsibilities from the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to the Government. The Commission reported on specific activities on the ground, in particular the establishment of the first justice and security regional hubs with funding from the Peacebuilding Fund. The Commission has also taken the opportunity to call attention to the importance of national reconciliation alongside the rebuilding of State institutions and the necessity to review current approaches to the funding of justice and security institutions.

Resource mobilization

78. The active engagement of the Commission in the preparation of the expanded Liberia peacebuilding programme and its alignment with the statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia has further advanced the synergy between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund. The creation of an expanded plan highlighted the catalytic nature of the Fund's contribution ($20 million out of a targeted $80 million; see para. 75), and provided a clear entry point for the configuration to engage in the discussion about priorities, since it was positioned to advocate for additional fundraising.

79. The Commission continues its dialogue with all significant actors in Liberia, including Australia, Norway, the United States and the European Union. A resource mobilization strategy and a workplan are being finalized to facilitate a targeted approach by the Chair and members of the configuration. The Commission will be guided by national ownership, sustainability and the promotion of South-South cooperation.

Fostering coherence

80. One of the main achievements during the reporting period was the full alignment of peacebuilding instruments with core country strategies. The statement of mutual commitments was translated into the Liberia peacebuilding programme, which comprises projects and activities that correspond to all of the Government's commitments in the statement. The programme and the statement drew on and were informed by the poverty reduction strategy for Liberia as well as strategic plans in the areas of security and justice.[2] The work undertaken for the programme is being incorporated into the ongoing planning for the revision of the poverty reduction strategy paper, vision 2030: Liberia rising.

81. While the preparation of the Liberia peacebuilding programme was arduous, the process was inclusive and participatory, enabling improved coherence and coordination among key actors, including the following:

(a) **Government officials**. At the ministerial and technical levels across the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Government, government officials played leading roles in the preparation of the programme through a two-tiered

[2] Including the following: the national security strategy, and the strategic plans of the Liberian National Police, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, the Ministry of Justice, the judiciary and the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

government coordination structure. The first tier is the Joint Steering Committee, which oversees the second tier comprising two technical advisory groups. The Minister of Finance is equally engaged, allowing for project planning to factor into national budgetary considerations;

(b) **National and international stakeholders**. National civil society, donors, the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and international non-governmental organizations contributed to the content of the programme through their participation in the Joint Steering Committee and/or in the technical advisory groups;

(c) **Traditional donors**. Under the leadership of Sweden, a justice and security donor coordination group has been created to ensure that the programme is synchronized with ongoing support in the justice and security sectors. This forum, together with the prioritization of activities in the programme, is also leading to a more focused and complementary channel of support to the Liberian National Police, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, and corrections and justice officials;

(d) **The Commission**. The Commission contributed by reviewing drafts and sharing views with the Joint Steering Committee and the technical advisory groups in meetings via video link. Such meetings, as well as three missions to Liberia and other meetings with key actors in New York, were instrumental in building linkages between the Commission in New York and stakeholders in the field.

82. The focus in the upcoming year will be on the results of the first review of the statement of mutual commitments, which should be finalized in the first part of 2012. As one of the three priorities (see para. 75), security sector reform is a core aspect of this review. With full appreciation for the Security Council's focus on the UNMIL transition this year, the configuration will be closely monitoring related commitments and projects. The security and justice regional hubs are central to this engagement, and a visit to Liberia by a delegation of the configuration is tentatively planned for April 2012, to coincide with the opening of the first hub. The configuration will continue to advise on the development of a national reconciliation strategy as agreed with the President of Liberia. Resource mobilization will also be at the forefront of the configuration's efforts.

6. Guinea

83. At the request of the Government of Guinea, which identified the three peacebuilding priorities of the promotion of national reconciliation and unity, security and defence sector reform, and the youth and women's employment policy, the Organizational Committee decided on 23 February to place Guinea on its agenda. The Committee elected Sylvie Lucas, the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations, Chair of the Guinea configuration. The Chair led the initial mission to Guinea from 3 to 10 April 2011. In May, the Peacebuilding Support Office led a joint United Nations technical mission, introducing the Peacebuilding Fund and examining how it could be used to support the Commission's engagement. On 23 June 2011, following those missions, an initial draft of the statement of mutual commitments was shared with the Government of Guinea and with the members of the Guinea configuration. The Chair conducted a second mission to Guinea from 4 to 6 September, during which she held discussions with the Government and other key actors to finalize the statement. The statement was adopted at a formal meeting of the configuration on 23 September with President Alpha Condé in attendance.

Political advocacy and support

84. During the visits and meetings of the configuration, the Chair and members of the configuration highlighted the inauguration of the first democratically elected President as the beginning of a new era for the country and a great incentive for renewed cooperation with the international community. The April visit validated the three peacebuilding priority areas for the Commission's engagement with Guinea and pointed to other processes relevant to the peacebuilding agenda, namely the legislative elections and the poverty reduction strategy paper process. In a subsequent meeting focused on the security sector reform process, on 13 June, the Chair mobilized additional attention for the key issues related to that process and provided a platform which was used by partners to further discuss those issues with the Government. That advocacy has produced initial results, including consistent support by the Peacebuilding Fund in the form of a number of quick impact projects which have been approved by the Joint Steering Committee of the Fund in Guinea.

85. The Chair's second visit to Conakry from 4 to 6 September drew further attention to the need for an inclusive dialogue on the challenges the country is facing, including the organization of the legislative elections. The meeting of the configuration on 23 September, in which President Condé was an active participant, provided additional momentum for the international community to engage the Government on those issues. The recent meeting between the President and the leaders of all the major parties is seen as an important step towards a more institutionalized dialogue and, it is hoped, a consensus in relation to outstanding technical and political issues regarding the organization of the legislative elections.

Resource mobilization

86. Although the Commission is in its first year of engagement with Guinea, important steps have been taken, aimed at mobilizing resources for peacebuilding activities and establishing synergies with other regional and international actors. The Chair of the configuration has thus initiated contacts with the World Bank, IMF and, most recently, AfDB.

87. The second peacebuilding priority plan, which was adopted in November by the Joint Steering Committee co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Guinea and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Conakry, is closely aligned with the priorities identified in the statement of mutual commitments. That synergy has created the potential for additional resources that could be mobilized to complement the Peacebuilding Fund. The first results in this respect, pertaining in particular to projects in the area of security sector reform and national reconciliation, have been achieved. The informal meeting of the configuration of 21 November, with discussions on elections, security sector reform and national reconciliation, as well as the annual stakeholders meeting of the Peacebuilding Fund of 22 November, enhanced the visibility of the peacebuilding agenda in Guinea and reinforced the momentum for marshalling possible additional resources.

Fostering coherence

88. The process of developing the statement of mutual commitments has resulted in a common agenda in relation to the three peacebuilding areas. Meetings on 13 June, 6 July and 21 November, as well as a recent United Nations mission on security

sector reform, also contributed to improving policy and programmatic coherence among the key stakeholders.

89. To make progress on the implementation of the mutual commitments for peacebuilding in Guinea, a number of important steps need to be taken, including the further strengthening of the peacebuilding architecture on the ground and the relationship of the Commission with the Group of Friends of Guinea. In addition, it is necessary to enhance the working relationship between the Chairperson/the configuration, the Peacebuilding Support Office and other entities and departments of the United Nations system in New York and on the ground, notably UNDP, the Department of Political Affairs, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

C. Cross-configuration work

90. In an effort to respond to one of the key recommendations of the 2010 review concerning the need for the Commission to pay due attention to the regional dimension of peacebuilding, the West African configurations of the Commission, namely Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone, decided to join forces in addressing the issue of transnational crime and drug trafficking which puts peace at risk in all four countries. The joint effort reflected the recognition that the transnational nature of the drug trafficking phenomenon required a regional approach.

91. Thus on 6 July, the four West African configurations convened a joint meeting to discuss the issue of transnational crime and drug trafficking, and their impact on peacebuilding in the four countries. The ensuing discussion underlined the need to tackle the challenges of drug trafficking and organized crime in a holistic manner, through an approach that is rooted in the principle of common and shared responsibility, involving all major actors across continents. It was emphasized that inaction in the face of efforts by drug traffickers risks reversing ongoing peacebuilding and State-building efforts in the four countries. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, other senior officials of the United Nations system and INTERPOL officials participated in the meeting. It concluded with a call on the Commission to collaborate more closely with the ECOWAS Commission in support of the implementation of the ECOWAS plan of action to tackle crime and drug-related issues, and to lend its support to existing international initiatives, including the joint United Nations-INTERPOL West Africa Coast Initiative. As a follow-up, one of the Chairs of the West African configurations will eventually visit the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja and engage in discussions on how the Commission could concretely support ECOWAS in fully implementing its regional plan of action.

D. Working Group on Lessons Learned

92. During the reporting period, the Working Group on Lessons Learned held four meetings on the following themes: (a) resource mobilization for peacebuilding priorities and improved coordination among relevant actors; (b) economic revitalization and youth employment for peacebuilding (with a focus on youth employment and natural resource management); (c) security sector reform and rule of law for peacebuilding; and (d) transition of the Peacebuilding Commission's

forms and instruments of engagement and the partnership between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council.

93. The Chair compiled initial findings on each of the topics which the Working Group addressed during the reporting period. While details can be viewed in the reports (see http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/doc_lessonslearned.shtml), examples of lessons learned emanating from the four meetings held during that period include the following:

(a) **Resource mobilization for peacebuilding priorities and improved coordination among relevant actors**. The discussion on this topic highlighted that the Commission's role is to help to overcome the fragmentation of international development efforts and use its political weight to bring the Government's and the development partners' priorities in line. It also underlined the need for the Commission to engage in discussions aimed at devising mechanisms for flexible, predictable, rapid-response financing, and to encourage improved field-level coordination with international and regional financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank. Given its advisory and political nature, the Commission should focus on facilitating and supporting the integration of all United Nations peacebuilding activities and collaboration between United Nations and non-United Nations actors in the field.

(b) **Economic revitalization and youth employment for peacebuilding**. The discussion on this topic underscored that the Commission should contribute to policy development by mobilizing assistance from the international community. Their help would enable the Government to develop appropriate strategies for economic revitalization and youth employment, and facilitate coordination among and the engagement of relevant stakeholders (such as the World Bank and AfDB) to assist with employment policies and programming. The Commission was encouraged to initiate discussions in the country configurations on the management of natural resources, so as to explore both the linkage between extractive sectors to employment generation in countries on its agenda and regional approaches in capacity-building for proper management of natural resources, including through South-South cooperation.

(c) **Security sector reform and rule of law for peacebuilding**. The meeting on this theme stressed the need for the Commission to place more emphasis on addressing obstacles in ensuring coherence of security sector reform and rule-of-law efforts in the field and on the importance of civilian oversight; support national actors to help to clarify short-, medium- and long-term goals of security sector reform and rule-of-law development processes; emphasize ownership in the context of security sector reform and rule-of-law planning and assistance; identify evaluation schemes and indicators to evaluate the performance of relevant actors; and facilitate information sharing at a subregional level.

(d) (i) **Transition of the Commission's forms and instruments of engagement**. The meeting highlighted the lessons learned from the evolving engagement of the Commission with the countries on its agenda, drawing on the particular experiences of Burundi and Sierra Leone, as the two initial countries for which the Commission's engagement was sought in 2006. The discussion also addressed the possible transition to a lighter form of engagement with countries on the agenda, as needed and agreed to by the country concerned.

(ii) **Partnership between the Commission and the Security Council**. The meeting addressed ideas aimed at strengthening this partnership, including through the Commission's effort to improve its advisory role and the provision of timely and qualitative analysis. Suggestions included ways for creating more frequent and informal opportunities to exchange views between the two bodies, as well as the important role of countries with memberships on both the Commission and the Council. Specific areas relating to ways in which the partnership could be strengthened were also identified, including in the context of transition from United Nations peacekeeping to peacebuilding missions.

94. The selection of the above-mentioned topics marks a continuation of the efforts of the Working Group to focus on thematic areas of particular relevance to the peacebuilding process in the countries on the Commission's agenda. Moreover, the Chair introduced a new method of producing initial findings from each of the meetings of the Working Group, which are disseminated separately to a wider audience and presented for discussion by the Organizational Committee, as the primary forum for policy development on working modalities and mandate implementation.

95. The Working Group's potential to contribute to the work of country configurations and, more broadly, the normative development of the United Nations peacebuilding agenda, will also benefit from initiating discussions at the country level, where the lessons could be directly drawn from or disseminated to the concerned national and international actors.

III. Taking forward relevant recommendations of the 2010 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture

96. The two overarching recommendations of the 2010 review were for the Commission to enhance its impact in the field and strengthen its relations with key actors at Headquarters. To that end, the road map for actions in 2011 focused on those priorities. The reporting period witnessed the initiation of critical activities that will place the Commission on the path towards strengthening its impact and demonstrating its value added, both in the field and as a policy platform for the normative development of the peacebuilding discourse in the United Nations and beyond. In that regard, while the Organizational Committee has played the main role of facilitating policy-level and thematic discussions in relation to the priorities identified in the road map, the implementation process involved the combined efforts of the Committee, the country configurations and the Working Group on Lessons Learned, as well as multiple multilateral and bilateral actors.

Aligning actors around common peacebuilding objectives

97. The Commission placed particular emphasis on strengthening its relationships with key United Nations operational entities. As such, more regular and diversified interactions have been initiated at Headquarters and in the field. In addition to the dialogue with leaders of United Nations missions and country teams during field visits undertaken by the Chairs and members of the country configurations, the Chairs were invited to meetings with the integrated (mission) task forces in New York. At the same time, dialogue between the Chairs of the configurations and the Senior Peacebuilding Group has been initiated. Such meetings will promote shared

analysis and collaboration in priority areas of common interest, in particular, lesson learning and advocacy for good peacebuilding practices, resource mobilization and national capacity development.

98. Recognizing the significant role that international financial institutions and regional development banks play in peacebuilding at the country level, the Commission focused on strengthening partnerships with those actors. The release of the *World Development Report 2011* (see para. 12) provided an important opening for exploring greater alignment and complementarity between the World Bank and other United Nations entities in post-conflict settings, in particular in the countries on the Commission's agenda. The hosting of the initial dialogue with the Bank on the implications of the *Report* for the United Nations system and the initiation of partnership with the African Development Bank represent important steps in the right direction.

99. Going forward, the dialogue with the World Bank, its Board of Directors and other operational actors of the United Nations system will seek to place additional focus on encouraging the practical alignment of their support for peacebuilding in the field. The Commission will continue to work with the World Bank, other operational actors of the United Nations system and their government counterparts to strengthen the partnership and the alignment of activities in the countries on its agenda, especially as those activities relate to needs assessment and poverty reduction strategies. The Commission will further explore the possibility of complementary programming between the United Nations system, in particular the World Bank, and other national and international actors where issues of security, justice and development intersect by linking the operationalization of relevant recommendations of the *Report* to that of relevant recommendations from the review of civilian capacity (see para. 9).

100. Similarly, the partnership with AfDB has the potential of enhancing complementarity and coherence among actors in the countries on the agenda. Practical actions in relation to the initially identified areas of cooperation as reflected in the minutes of consultations of the recent visit by the Chairs' Group to Tunis in November will be vigorously pursued. Furthermore, the Commission and AfDB will explore means to support the sharing of experience and expertise between countries emerging from conflict in Africa and a possible partnership between AfDB and the Peacebuilding Fund for complementarity and catalytic activities in countries on the Commission's agenda. The Commission will need to explore the relationship with the evolving Group of Seven Plus (g7+) conflict-affected States in the light of the outcome of the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November and December 2011. Such an effort could further help to develop a broader understanding on a common approach in support for mutual accountability frameworks, national ownership and improved aid effectiveness for peacebuilding.

Adoption of flexible and adaptable instruments of engagement

101. The 2010 review found that there were "clear advantages to a single overarching planning document" containing "well-defined peacebuilding elements". Beginning with Liberia in November 2010 and continuing with Guinea in February 2011, the Commission adopted the statement of mutual commitments as the new instrument of engagement for countries to be placed on its agenda. The new

instrument recognizes the need to build closely on existing national frameworks and to pursue mutual accountability for progress between the Commission and the countries on its agenda. A workshop co-organized by the International Peace Institute and the Peacebuilding Support Office for the Commission to assess lessons emerging from the statements and earlier strategic frameworks as well as existing national planning tools, most notably poverty reduction strategy papers, confirmed the need for the Commission to promote poverty reduction strategy papers that more adequately reflect peacebuilding and State-building priorities.

102. Looking ahead, the Commission would also need to develop an understanding of when and why a country would wish to transition to a different form of engagement and how the Commission would be able to support a wider range of countries. The discussion and priority issues should be further elaborated through a process of dialogue with the Security Council in 2012.

Focus on national capacity development

103. As described earlier, initial dialogue has been initiated with UNDP and the Department of Field Support in order for the Commission to develop a better understanding of and monitor the evolving United Nations system-wide approach to national capacity-building in post-conflict settings, taking into account the opportunity offered by the recent review of civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict (see para. 26). The Commission recognizes the complexity of transforming a system-wide approach in order to respond in a timely and efficient manner to the specific peacebuilding priorities of countries emerging from conflict. Therefore, the Commission needs to continue to be closely engaged in the relevant aspects of the implementation of the civilian capacity review and the development of the evolving guidance on national capacity development under the auspices of UNDP.

104. In parallel to the preceding long-term efforts, the Commission has embarked on extending the frontiers of capacity-building by exploring, helping to disseminate and facilitating cross-learning between countries which have undergone peacebuilding and reconstruction processes and the countries on its agenda. The Kigali high-level meeting on post-conflict peacebuilding: the experience of Rwanda (see paras. 14-17) represented an initial effort in partnering with AfDB to that end. The Commission will continue to strengthen efforts to support national ownership and capacity development, focusing on identifying opportunities to promote South-South cooperation for peacebuilding.

Practical approaches to resource mobilization

105. The Commission has continued to explore a variety of ways to mobilize resources for the countries on its agenda, including through co-sponsoring the organization of donor round tables. The subsections in section II of the present report, which deal with specific countries, provide an account of those efforts. The prevailing global financial and economic crisis will continue to place significant limitations on aid flow for the countries on its agenda. There is recognition that resource mobilization by the Commission will increasingly find expression in its advocacy work for more risk-tolerant financial policies and assistance to the countries on its agenda to prioritize within its peacebuilding objectives and in the promotion of coherence among key bilateral and multilateral actors to maximize the use of existing resources. The Commission, therefore, should continue to identify lessons from its bilateral and multilateral partnership efforts and work alongside the

other entities of the United Nations system and multilateral development banks to identify resource mobilization opportunities and entry points.

106. In addition, synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund are expanding. The expanded priority plan in Liberia (see paras. 75 and 78) represents an innovation that other countries could follow. The expanded plan ensures that the convening of national and international stakeholders (through the Joint Steering Committee) will have an impact on the question of prioritization beyond the scope of activities that could be funded by the Fund. At the same time, the plan benefits from the knowledge that the Fund's catalytic resources are available to kick-start activities and provides a clear road map for additional resource mobilization for agreed priorities. In Guinea, Fund programming has been aligned to the statement of mutual commitments — in particular concerning security sector reform. In Guinea-Bissau, Peacebuilding Fund support for the Pension Fund responds directly to a high priority for the configuration, witnessed by the Fund's detailed engagement in this area.

IV. Conclusion

107. The reporting period, which also coincided with the first year in the implementation of the relevant recommendations emanating from the 2010 review, has witnessed a number of policy processes which need to be taken forward and further consolidated in 2012. The Commission should aim at building on such country- and Headquarters-level processes, ensuring that it retains its focus on strengthening the impact of its work in the countries on its agenda, and at continuing to pursue its efforts to build its credibility as the central intergovernmental advisory platform for championing and developing peacebuilding knowledge and practices. To that end, a new road map will be developed in 2012 to help to focus the Commission on priority actions and results. The road map should include actions aimed at enabling each country configuration to spell out its expected deliverables in the countries on the agenda, drawing on relevant country-specific indicators and mutual commitments, and to indicate how it intends to measure its achievements. In that connection, the Commission intends to place additional emphasis on measuring its impact in the field.

108. While pursuing actions focused on producing results for the countries on its agenda, the Commission needs to strengthen further its relationship with key actors at Headquarters. The progress made in deepening and diversifying the relationship with key United Nations organs and operational entities represents an important step in this direction. During the reporting period, the institutional linkage with the General Assembly has been expressed through the Chairperson's briefing to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (see para. 23) which has become an annual informal occasion designed to provide the Commission's contribution to the Committee's consideration of the section on the linkage between peacekeeping and peacebuilding in its annual report. The linkage with the Economic and Social Council is expressed through the annual informal briefing by the Chairperson at its substantive session under a standing agenda item (African countries emerging from conflict), or through a jointly organized thematic discussion of mutual interest. The linkage with the Security Council (see para. 24) has also progressed through the continuing regularization of country-specific formal briefings and the evolution of informal interactive dialogue on a case-by-case basis and as needed. However, despite the ongoing progress, the Commission still expects more active reflection of

the increasing importance of post-conflict peacebuilding across the United Nations system, but, more importantly, in the work of the principal organs.

109. In the particular case of the Security Council, the Commission recognizes that there are areas requiring additional effort from its side to bring added value to the Council's consideration of countries on the agenda. Those efforts include: (a) striving to address the fragmented response by security and development actors in the field and advising the Council upon its request; (b) considering ways to advise the Council, upon its request and in coordination with relevant United Nations missions and national stakeholders, on peacebuilding-related aspects in the mandates of the missions; and (c) focusing on providing high-quality analysis of specific problems in the area of peacebuilding and on suggesting options to address them. Progress in these areas needs to result, in turn, in a more regular drawing on the Commission's advice in the Council's consideration of relevant country situations and thematic discussions.

110. Increased appreciation of the potential role that the Commission can play to promote renewed commitment by the international community to countries emerging from conflict will generate increased expectations. In that regard, the Commission will continue to look towards the Peacebuilding Support Office for high-quality support to the country configurations. Through better use of its own resources and by drawing on expertise from within and outside the United Nations, the Office is expected to provide analyses and assessments that would help the Commission to manage the various phases in its engagement with the countries on its agenda. Whether through assistance in the development of the instruments of engagement, assessment of progress towards commitments made therein, or the unblocking of obstacles and identification of opportunities for resource mobilization, the Office's role will continue to be crucial for the Commission's efficient functioning.

111. Greater synergies will be sought between Peacebuilding Fund investments and peacebuilding priorities supported by the Commission. They will be pursued through consultations between the country configurations and the Fund during the development of the instruments of engagement and the priority plans of the Fund.

112. Aside from the outreach activities undertaken by the Commission and the Chairs of the country configurations, the reporting period has witnessed little progress in relation to the development of a communications strategy that could help the Commission to communicate its work and objectives to a broader audience at the country level and globally. The launching of a new website of the Commission and the connection with media and social networks represent important steps resulting from the Peacebuilding Support Office's establishment of a dedicated communications capacity. As part of its dedicated support to the Commission, it is expected that the Office will develop a full-fledged communications strategy for the Commission.